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What the Community Is Asking of the Department of Children's Work in the Public Library*

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"This library work for children is amazing," said the Danish author Herman Bang. "I was prepared for everything else I have seen in America but this surprises and delights me. I find it deeply interesting and full of possibilities for future generations. I should like to spend a long time in this beautiful room; I shall come again."

The author died a few days later while on a tour of the Western states but his words have lingered in our memories along with those of other visitors, American and European, who have expressed surprise and appreciation on visiting a children's library for the first time. "Before we came to America we wondered why you were not writing more poetry in this marvelous country of yours," said a Dutch deaconess, who stood on the threshold of a children's room full of children and flooded with sunshine in one of the East Side libraries, "but how can you when you are living it like this?"

The speaker had visited a nearby settlement and playground and had walked through streets as foreign as any in Europe before entering a library whose community is always asking for more—more histories, American and European, more Bibles, more poetry and myths and fairy tales, more Dickens and Victor Hugo, more Louisa Alcott and Robert Louis Stevenson;

more books on citizenship and government, more "easy books," and more "library teachers" capable of divining needs as well as of gratifying desires, and of diverting those inclined to read too much into other neighborhood interests.

Last June as I watched a street pageant given to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Nurses' settlement in Henry street I realized how truly the deaconess had spoken. No one of the thousands who witnessed that pageant will ever forget it. And one feels very sure that the 500 settlement club members—men, women and children—who, by characteristic song, and dance, and costume, brought back the social life and customs of the various nationalities still living in Henry street, are richer in sentiments of pride and loyalty toward their city as well as in true folk spirit and common fund of associations and memories.

On this occasion the community asked the library not merely to furnish books but to share in an effort to put the neighborhood into the spirit of the pageant performance. And so the library borrowed colored lantern slides of Manhattan Island in the days of the Indians, the Dutch and the English and arranged them in combination with slides showing the library's part in the social life of the city of today, and invited the settlement club leaders to spend an evening at the library with their children. Oscar Wilde's story of The happy prince conveyed the message of the spirit of service in a great city and a few words on practical every day citizenship from the head of the settlement concluded an evening rich with promise for future coöpera-

*Read at meeting of New York library association, Lake George, September 24, 1913.

tive work between settlement and library.

Since I have promised to make this paper a record of the community's interest and growing dependence upon the library I shall make no apologies for such digressions and excursions as bring one in closer human touch with any part of our community.

It has been both profitable to the work and encouraging to the workers to view the field with visitors from other cities and countries from time to time. We have learned much that has been put to good account before and since the opening of a central children's room in New York City. As it is now nearly two and one half years since the central building of the New York public library was opened it is possible to give a fair idea of what a cosmopolitan and ever changing community is asking from and giving to a children's department which is unusually accessible to the public.

"Isn't this the first children's library in the world?" "When and where did this idea of a children's room in a public library originate?" "Is there any literature on the subject of children's libraries?" "Are there any photographs illustrating the work which are available for reproduction in American and European newspapers and magazines and for lantern slides?" "Do you print lists of children's books on different subjects and for children of different ages?" "What are the most popular books for boys and girls?" "What kind of stories are told in the library and are visitors admitted to the story-hour?" "How does one go about preparing herself for such work as this?" These are fairly typical of the questions most frequently asked since the opening of the library.

Among thousands of sight-seeing visitors to whom a children's room in a public library was an entirely new idea there were hundreds familiar with the work in other places or in the branch libraries in New York, who came for definite help in their special lines of work or for new ideas to be

developed elsewhere. It was soon evident that the department of children's work in the New York public library would exert more than a local influence upon the production, the distribution, and the private ownership of children's books. It was also apparent that it was to become an active social factor in the homes of children and grown people hitherto unacquainted with public libraries as well as in the homes of the immigrant children already reached through the branch libraries, the travelling libraries and the public school.

Authors, editors, illustrators, publishers and their representatives; members of the dramatic profession and social workers; interior decorators and representatives of motion picture companies; parents, teachers, tutors and governesses were all numbered among the first visitors to the children's room who made use of its books and pictures on equal terms with the children. From the opening day children read in the window seats, at the tables, or in the armchairs drawn up to the book shelves in utter oblivion of throngs of visitors.

Brought into immediate and vital contact with all classes and conditions of society at various stages of human experience it is interesting to note the universal spirit of civic pride and personal satisfaction expressed by the residents of New York who bring their friends to see a place they seem to feel they have discovered and who are constantly speaking or writing about it at home or abroad.

"The children's room seems to have made a distinct place for itself as a part of the life of the city," says one of the assistants in a recent report, "The public has given us its confidence" she continues, "and it is not difficult for an institution to grow if it can keep in advance of what the public has learned to expect."

The problems of admitting large numbers of grown persons to a children's room without limiting its use-

fulness or attractiveness to children was met in three ways:

1. By the general arrangement, furnishing and decoration of the room.

2. By such a selection and arrangement of books in the reference and reading-room collections as attracts the immediate interest of the visitor to books and to the purpose of the room.

3. By taking unusual care as to the information given to a sightseeing public and to the children themselves. The presence of an assistant with the ability to converse readily in French and German has proved of great value in explaining the work to foreign visitors and in making them feel at home.

The results have fully justified the expenditure of time, thought and energy. One man who visited the library as a sightseer came a year afterward for help with his annual problem. Every year, he said, he received a sum of money with which he was requested to buy books for an orphan asylum in South Africa. He had been accustomed to make his selection at a department store but found it quite unsatisfactory. This year when the money came; he remembered the children's room he had seen in the new library and decided it was the very place to go for help. He spent three hours in the room selecting 60 titles from the books suggested to him. He examined each book personally and said that for the first time he felt genuine pleasure and satisfaction in sending the books and that he should look to the library every year to help in the solution of his South Africa problem.

Another man came to make a selection of books for an industrial school in Ohio. Still another to choose a hundred children's books for a library in Maine. A woman connected with a Wall street bank came for a list of books for down-town office boys in whose reading she had become interested.

A very frequent request has been for a list of books to "freshen up" a small country library. This request is some-

times made by a clergyman, sometimes by a librarian, or by a school principal, or a summer visitor who carries a pleasant remembrance of a country village whose library contains very few books for children.

Groups of children from institutions for the deaf, blind and mentally defective have been brought to the library with the belief that the children's room would serve as an incentive to more and better reading in institutional libraries. Among these visitors may be mentioned a troop of blind boy scouts.

We recall with peculiar pleasure an elderly couple who strolled into the children's room arm in arm one afternoon. They were missionaries from a little town in Utah who had been attending a conference at Atlantic City and who were renewing their youth in New York. They had once lived in Greenwich Village and they had walked up Fifth avenue noting the changes. When they came to the new library the woman had said "Of course there will be nothing in that marble palace to help me in planning for the children's library at home, but it may help us remember how great an institution a library may become, so let us go inside." "And to think," she continued, "that we should walk straight into this children's room and find the very pictures and books we need in Utah!"

While her husband was filling a notebook under her direction she told more of the history of the library in which she was interested. Through the efforts of a club composed entirely of Mormon women, with the exception of herself, a Carnegie building had been secured. She had waited 14 years for an invitation to join the club to come to her unsolicited, and soon after it came she was chosen to look after the equipment and decoration of the children's room in the new library.

She had had much experience in trying to interest the Mormon boys and girls in books and fully realized what an incentive would be furnished by picture books and illustrated editions

of old favorites, especially to the girls who were inclined to be stolid. The comic supplement had found its way to them and was extremely popular, but they had access to no other picture books or illustrations in colors.

One morning was made memorable by a visit from Mary Anderson de Navarro who took note of the Bonaparte and other French books for the benefit of her children in England.

We looked in vain for a story Joseph Jacobs had read as a boy and which he wanted to find for his grandson and were rewarded for a fruitless search by the author's promise to tell the children a story some day.

Not only have the best known living authors of children's books visited the room—some of them have worked here, the most notable instance perhaps being Mr Post Wheeler who used the Russian books for his collection of Russian fairy tales.

The grandchildren of Sidney Lanier and of Hawthorne showed much interest in seeing their grandfathers' books on the shelves. The Lanier children were reading the Arthurian legends and were eager to see other versions as well as those of their grandfather.

Two French-speaking Spaniards became enthusiastic over the whole educational idea of a children's library. They were glad to see Don Quixote in English and Gil Blas in French and recommended some modern dramas for children in Spanish.

Two secretaries from Havana sent a number of Spanish books as a gift. These books were hailed with delight by a little girl who is most anxious to learn Spanish and accompany her father on some of his frequent business trips to Cuba. Recently a teacher of Spanish in one of the city high schools offered to make a list of the best children's books in the Spanish language.

An Austrian gentleman came for suggestions of American books with typical illustrations to take home to his children who spoke English.

Another request was for typical American books to be sent to Holland.

An Italian secretary of an educational association writes as follows:

We are just going to open the first children's room at our public library in Milan. We should like to have the best foreign children's books translated into the Italian language and ask the best American, English, French and German publishing houses to send us copies of their children's books. We would then read and resumé them, publish the summaries in a special rubric of our '*Cultura Popolari*'—'International literature for children'—and suggest them to our best translators for a good Italian translation. Would you tell us the names of American publishing houses and the titles of the best children's books—novels, ancient legends, etc.

A similar request was received from the Stockholm children's library a few months after it was opened in 1911. It is of interest to note in this connection a visit from the Library commissioner of Sweden in 1912.

A Swiss professor who had come over to give a course of lectures at one of our leading universities visited the children's room with his wife, who once conceived of a plan for raising money for the establishment of a children's library in Switzerland by selling flowers in the streets of their native city. They were eager to find something in print which could be translated and used to rouse the people of their city to support similar work. Library reports were characterized as too statistical and technical. They were best satisfied with photographs illustrative of the work, but said they should not be content until they could give to others some description of what they had seen for themselves. The parting message of this Swiss professor was "You are doing this children's library work with the highest imaginative conception of its possibilities but as yet America seems to have produced no literature which can be translated into another language and give the spirit or philosophy underlying it."

From a small village in the Adirondacks the following letter was lately received:

We are anxious to formulate plans for a children's room in connection with our free library. The room would have to be an addition to our present library building which is a reading and circulating room combined. The children are our best and most hopeful readers. Can you give me any suggestions in regard to children's work in rural free libraries, or are there any publications on this subject with suggestive drawings.

The selection of children's books for translation into foreign languages, a sincere but liberal and far-sighted interpretation of the work in progress in America as adapted to child life in other countries; and a practical illustrated guide for the children's work in rural free libraries are as yet unsolved needs of the work.

The growing interest of the publishers has been one of the most gratifying experiences of the children's rooms. Several houses send representatives regularly to note new books, more especially foreign publications, and to take account of the book exhibits which are said to have a marked effect on the requests for books for purchase at the shops in the neighborhood of the library. A leading importing house has entirely rearranged and classified its collection of children's books and sends the head of this department regularly for suggestions as to the display of books. A literary critic sent by another publishing house to compare the different editions of Andersen's fairy tales was so captivated by the Swedish and Danish picture books as to postpone the work for which he had come in order to enjoy them. When he left the room he said he had spent an extremely profitable morning and was taking away many ideas for future use.

That the work of the central children's room has not lessened in interest since the opening days is best shown by direct quotations from a report for a single month during the summer of 1913.

One afternoon at the same time there were in the children's room two students, one from India wearing a turban and one from Germany as fair

as the Indian was dark; a French lady and two Sisters of Charity, one a Mother Superior in a Canadian convent.

At another time two remarkably interesting Russians were delighted to find among our picture books the Russian picture books they had known so well as children. They were people of great culture, the lady the daughter of a well-known Russian author. They were full of enthusiasm over the children's room and its books, and constantly exclaimed; "Oh! think of ———'s pleasure in this! We must tell her all about it."

We were reminded of the Russian educator who accompanied by his wife spent several days in the children's room last year and visited the story hours and reading clubs at a number of branch libraries. These people were keenly interested not only in the stories but also in the practical exemplification of the principle of self-government as shown in the clubs, conducted by boys and girls. Their appreciation of the spirit of fair play seemed very wonderful to these foreign visitors who had spent two years in the study of educational work in America before visiting public libraries.

For several days another Russian gentleman brought his little boy and girl to read the Russian books. The children who could neither read nor speak English were on their way to California with their father.

Two little German boys who had just come from Germany and had been two days in New York spent an entire afternoon reading German books. Their grandfather had much difficulty in persuading them to leave the children's room. Next morning they came again with their parents and while their father and mother were looking about the room the boys found German books for themselves and begged to be left at the library while their parents went sight-seeing.

Two Italian gentlemen quite lost their dignity over the Italian Pinocchio

with its fascinating illustrations. One of them was studying educational work in America with a view to introducing new ideas on his return to Italy.

We have also had the excitement of costuming a fairy tale party given at Newport. Two costume designers worked in the room day after day copying fairy costumes from Dulac, Walter Crane and Warwick Goble. Every day there have been visitors searching for costumes to copy or for characters to fit costumes. It was the men who had the costumes and were looking for characters. After a long search one man came to the desk and gleefully showed the picture of the Wicked Uncle in "Babes in the wood" illustrated by Randolph Caldecott; he said that his costume just fitted that character. "And besides," he continued, "I remember the story now and remember that the coming of the Uncle into the tale always thrilled me. Yes, now I shall be that very man."

Another man read "Peter Pan" all the way through so that he could represent "a truly good pirate Smee." The name Smee caught his fancy and he thought he could manage his costume. Most of these people, well known in social circles, became much interested in the children's room and its work and said that they should come often to renew their childhood by looking over the fascinating books.

The re-creation of childhood—Is not this after all the ultimate gift of a children's library to any community?

"All the things you put around in the library to make it look pretty don't seem to mean nothing to us when we're kids but we think about 'em afterwards. I've heard lots of fellers say so only they'd be *ashamed* to tell you." The boy who said this had been counted for several years as an adult in the branch library to which he had first come as a small boy.

The test questions that I would apply then to the department of children's work in a public library, large or small, are these:

1. Does the work show elements of strong vitality to any one sincerely interested in children?

2. Is the book collection adequate to the cultural needs of the community?

3. Is the library service intelligent, active, and sympathetic?

4. Is the library *growing with its community*?

5. Does the library believe in its children's work as an integral part of a civic institution or does it merely tolerate it?

"In whatever exploration or pioneering we may do we must endeavor to let our work be the centre of as much as possible and refuse to let that pass for work whose affinity with life is narrow and whose range of influence is small."

Books for the Young People's Shelf*

Sophie M. Collman, Public library,
Cincinnati

What shall our young people, more particularly the young girl, read? The question is often asked and quite as often answered with a list of books, most excellent and improving every one of them, in fact the very books that everybody should read; but the average girl will have none of them. She wants to be amused and not improved and she is right; reading is not reading when done for improvement; you do not want to read a book because you must, but because you take pleasure in its pages.

Now the young person, who as a child has crept away to the old family library—or, perhaps it was only the tall old fashioned bookcase with its tree-calf volumes—and browsed at will among the masters of thought, that young person has met friends and guides and has no need of a mentor beyond his, or her good taste. There are after all, no better friends nor truer, than books; met with in

*Read before Ohio library association, Oct. 10, 1913.

youth they will endure and only grow dearer as the years go by.

But while some books are worthy friends, some are but chance acquaintances, pleasant company for the time being, easily forgotten at parting; others again are bad companions, whose views of life are false and misleading, whose manners and speech sometimes place them beneath our notice.

Of course we should like our young people to read Jane Austen and Thackeray and George Eliot, read them and love them too, as they deserve to be loved, for they embody much that stands for English thought and speech. But without this love, which cannot after all, be commanded, and even with it, why may they not stop to dally for a while among the humbler flowers and pleasant weeds of fiction?

As little girls we loved Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, and we still feel happy when Little Red Ridinghood escapes from the wolf, or when the fairy prince breaks through the hedge of thorns set up by pride or convention, for the novel is after all nothing more than the grown ups' fairy tale, realistic, romantic, fantastic, as the case may be, and only forgets itself when it becomes a dissertation, or an essay on social questions.

Now here is a list of 15 books selected from the shelves of the Public library of Cincinnati and forming part of a collection which has for some years been used in work with the young people who have outgrown the children's room. From a literary standpoint our gleanings may be said to embrace material as ephemeral as the flower of the poppy and as humble as the daisy, which latter indeed, some persons frankly call a weed, but, let us also hope to find there an ear or two of useful grain.

Truly fairy land is a pleasant place to visit from time to time, for very few of us have what we want, or can do as we like. Fate perhaps compels

us to inhabit a room which is not at all as we could wish it, the wall paper is ugly, the furniture old and shabby and the doors and windows are in the wrong places, and yet we do so love harmony of line and color in walls and chairs and floor rugs. Perhaps we have to work hard all the year round with very little vacation, if we are lucky enough to get any at all; the city is hot in summer, the days are enervating, the nights oppressive. How delightful it must be by the sea, or out in the country or anywhere else than just here. Nor is the winter any better, the sky is dreary and we plod along through the fog and slush and have more work than usual at holiday time. Of course we can always find blessings to count if we stop to think them over, and as we have all been taught to read and do not have to wait for some good old Homer to come along and tell us our stories, ours is the solace of books.

Let us begin with *The money moon*, by Jeffery Farnol, a delightful romance which reads like a fairy tale and ends as happily. Prince Charming (the book calls him by another name, but he is that adorable hero in person) strays into Arcadia in search of adventure. He has come from over seas, from the land of gold, where yachts and motor cars and unlimited bank accounts abound. These goodly possessions however, he leaves on the borders of Arcadia, for in that country people lead the simple life, and fares forth incognito, as a gay adventurer should. And his quest is rewarded; he comes upon a small boy in search of buried treasure and is guided by him to the fair lady in distress, the lady, whose enemies he must overcome, whose pride he must subdue. The bank account and the motor car are factors in the denouement, they replace the magic purse and flying carpet of old and without them the money moon could hardly have risen. But it comes up in splendor and you rejoice in it and lay down the book in the end with a sigh or regret at parting with such pleasant company.

Hazel of Heatherland, by Mabel Barnes-Grundy

Heatherland is a pretty English village, deady dull and given to gossip. Hazel is also pretty, anything but dull and inclined to furnish material for some of the gossip. Being young and full of spirits she grows restive under the narrowness of her existence and rebels, ineffectually it is true, against the tyranny of an old maid sister who worships the lares and penates with such unremitting rites, that Hazel's domestic virtues are threatened with extinction. Happiness, as usual, lies not far from Hazel's door, but she doubts it and turns her back upon it, for a delightful fairy godmother sort of aunt gives her a glimpse of a wider horizon. And it need not remain merely a glimpse, for Fate suddenly places Hazel at the cross roads where she may have her choice between a brilliant marriage with wealth and social position and the prospect of leading a salon, and a return to her native village, where a modest competence, a faithful comrade and quiet joys await her. Hazel chooses—well, how should she have chosen?

Princess Priscilla's fortnight; by the Countess von Arnim

This book relates how her charming Royal Highness goes forth to seek the blue flower of happiness which for her too, does not bloom at home. Princess Priscilla is in our case, she does not like her surroundings although they include a castle set in a lovely landscape. She cannot do as she likes, she is watched, guarded and hedged in by usage and etiquette. Her future is settled too, in the most satisfactory manner, for is she not betrothed to a most eligible prince? He is quite nice, even Princess Priscilla has to admit that, but under the circumstances it seems hardly strange that she should long for freedom, obscurity and life in a cottage. How she makes her adventurous escape from the castle and finds her cottage, how she turns the heads of two young men and upsets a whole village, and what further befalls the

lovely princess, the book itself must tell, for it would not do to spoil the story by betraying its secrets.

The indifference of Juliet; by Grace Richmond

A cottage figures too in *The indifference of Juliet*, although it had never entered the dear girl's head to long for one. And anyway, her rival is to live in it, for the hero, a poor but proud young man, would never dare ask fair Juliet, who is as spoiled as any princess and ten times more lovely, to share it with him. It is an attractive cottage though, even the most studied indifference cannot remain proof against its charm and Juliet very promptly and properly becomes jealous of the fortunate other girl. There are a tear or two, some pleasant idle moments out of doors, and a romantic wedding crowns the end.

Captain Warren's wards; by Joseph C. Lincoln

For some reason he cannot understand, Captain Warren, a retired New England sea captain, has been appointed guardian of his brother's orphans, a youth and maiden of most luxurious habits. The reason becomes apparent as the story progresses and it proves the means by which the Captain can train his wards in the way he would have them go. His is no easy task for the young folks feel that their country relative compromises them with their fine city friends and for a while they make his life a burden, but the old captain is not to be turned back from what he thinks his duty; he saves his niece from a fortune hunter, puts his nephew through college and shields the memory of his dead brother, whose actions were not above reproach.

The mountain girl; by Payne Erskine

A young Englishman, in search of health, takes up his abode in the Kentucky mountains. Life as he finds it there is most primitive but the scenery is inspiring and the air heaven sent. Our Englishman overcomes the suspicion which always attends the stran-

ger when he first enters the region of stills and feuds, and practices his profession, that of physician, among the mountain folk, who in spite of the air sometimes need medical attention. That one of the cabins should harbor a fair mountain girl with an education and a feudist lover, and that the new comer should woo and win her in spite of all obstacles, nobody would even for an instant doubt. The trouble comes when the English younger son suddenly falls heir to an unexpected title and leaves his mountain bride while he sails for home to straighten matters out. Will he prove ashamed of his wife, or will he think that the pleasant comrade of the wilds will be a fitting mate for palace walls? This is the question which is asked and answered.

Louisiana; by Frances Hodgson Burnett

This pretty little story delighted a past generation and as it has kept in print to this day, it evidently pleases still. The sentiment may ring a little false at times, but in the days when the story was written, this play upon the sensibilities was, in the words of Arnold Bennett, "What the public wanted."

Aside from this, the story is both clever and unusual. Louisiana, a Southern farmer's daughter, pretty and refined in spite of her ill made clothes and her ignorance, innocently lends herself to another woman's whim and masquerades at a summer resort under false pretences. By the time she realizes what she is doing it is too late, she has lost her heart and brought unhappiness upon herself and her devoted father. This latter, a chivalrous and romantic soul beneath his rough exterior, believes his daughter to be ashamed of him no less than of her unattractive home, and since he cannot make himself over, heroically sets about to bring the outward surroundings in harmony with his idol. There are tears and regrets in plenty, but in the end Louisiana's horizon clears and she lives happily ever after.

The house in the hedge; by Ralph Henry Barbour

Concerns itself with a house of mystery, deep hidden in a hedge. Feminine curiosity however, from the vantage point of a leafy bower, discovers what lies behind both hedge and blinds and after the first alarm finds the mystery not so very alarming after all. In fact the story goes on very pleasantly as a summer story should, with a little mystification, plenty of love making, some suspense and a happy ending.

Rosemary for remembrance; by Helen Sherman Griffith

Rosemary looks upon fate from behind a rosy cloud of apple blossoms, fate being the young man who spies her there and who henceforth dominates the scene. The young people soon become good friends and there would be no further trouble were it not for Rosemary's father, an exemplary and worthy, but at the same time narrow minded and unrelenting man, who makes things unpleasant until the very end. In his youth this gentleman had been jilted by the young man's mother, a daughter of the rich, who was forced by her family to wed more money, since when, in bitterness of spirit, he had hated the rich and everything pertaining to ease and luxury, automobiles in especial incurring his disapproval. Naturally the end of the story finds him riding in one, although the occasion is connected with his ultimate conversion and chastening, which when it finally takes place is both thorough and complete.

The first violin; by Jessie Fothergill

This next one on the list is an old time favorite, a curious example of the occasional book by an obscure writer which remains popular generation after generation, with no apparent justification. It is old fashioned in style, over long and entirely lacking in the direct movement demanded of the modern tale, and yet it is read as much as ever it was and seems like the measles, something through which everyone has to pass. Perhaps the hero is responsi-

ble; he belongs to the old romantic school, handsome of course, and with a past, and until the last chapter under a cloud, from which he finally emerges triumphant the noble victim of his chivalrous spirit. Or perhaps it is the heroine May, ever young like her name; she is only seventeen when she begins her adventures which although they extend over years, leave her settled in life, all her troubles over, at an age in which the modern heroine is just beginning. Or perhaps the fascination lies in the fact that the lovers, although supposedly persons of intelligence, are so blindly stupid as regards their feelings and insult and flout each other at every turn never seeming able to come to an understanding. Whatever the reason, the young girl still likes this sentimental tale.

Pleasures and palaces; by Juliet Wilbor Tompkins

"Home, sweet home," is the theme and pretty volatile Rose Marie whose upbringing has been such that she has never seen the inside of a kitchen, plays the variations upon it. She can order a soft boiled egg in almost any European language, but when it comes to boiling one the matter is not so simple. Meanwhile the fates have decreed that she should find her romance in the kitchen, a fair spotless kitchen, in which the nicest of young men tries to lead this misguided damsel into the paths of the domestic virtues. It is true that he proves a poor teacher and that his efforts are futile but—the reader must find out the rest for herself and when she has finished, she will discover that Rose Marie's adventures and misadventures veil a good bit of common sense beneath their humorous surface and that the home side of life can make an attractive enough story to please the young girl, for this tale does.

Daphne; by Margaret Sherwood

This is another grown up fairy tale and recounts the adventures of Daphne and Apollo on a hill side near Rome.

Daphne is not the classic nymph but a modern American girl who finds herself sole mistress of an Italian household, during the temporary absence of the countess, her sister, whom she has come to visit. Apollo, who haunts the hill slopes in shepherd's garb and speaks English fluently, wishes to remain incognito until the end. As the young lady cannot speak Italian and the servants nothing else, he runs slight chance of betrayal. The story is daintily written and the classical allusions should no more disturb the reader not used to them, in her enjoyment of a pretty love story, than the mention of the strange creatures in Alice in Wonderland bothers her small sister.

A lilac sunbonnet; by S. R. Crockett

It would be hard to find a more delightful love story than this of the lilac sunbonnet and its fair wearer, Winsome Charteris, who makes of wash-day such an idyl that the theories and studies of Ralph Peden, divinity student, are thereby completely upset and he himself put to sudden and ignominious flight. A jealous rival works some harm to the innocent lovers and obstacles of an apparently insurmountable nature are placed in their path, but Ralph finds courage enough to break with the trammels of tradition which would fetter his future, and manfully works out his own salvation.

The reader's one objection might be the Scotch dialect, of which there is a goodly quantity, but the young people who have delighted in the book have never seemed to mind it.

Dawn O'Hara; by Edna Ferber

Dawn O'Hara is a book that is good for the blues, it bubbles over with humor and the spirit of optimism lurks between its pages. Not that Dawn has no troubles, far from it, troubles are hers in plenty, tragedy even having laid its hand upon her, but she makes a brave and cheerful fight and weathers them in safety. The story plays in newspaper circles, the heroine being of that guild.

Jane Eyre; by Charlotte Brontë

With this last on the list we may effect an entrance into the realms of literature and find pleasure in the works of Scott, Ainsworth and Dickens, if we happen to begin with the right book; or, we may keep right on and read fifteen more like the above, although the chances are in favor of the former supposition.

Jane Eyre is more than a mere novel. It is true that viewed as such, its story is thrilling enough and that it furnished the hero for all the women novelists of the nineteenth century,—nay, even yet does the female heart secretly enshrine a Rochester,—but it was also the first cry of the new woman, a protest against the conditions surrounding women in Charlotte Brontë's day, when the only profession open to a girl was that of teacher, or governess, and when the superfluous females of the family were the unpaid servants of their relatives.

This list need not be read in the sequence here given, there being nothing didactic about it, the only aim having been to give as much variety as possible and to include something old as well as new. Historical fiction has been purposely avoided. It does not much matter whether a little tale of love and adventure be probable or not, provided it is well written and pleasing; but it is quite another matter when it comes to history, the minor writer is not liable to be a good historian and it is only the great creators who may dare take liberties with the past.

Our second list also selected from the young people's shelves makes more pretense to literary merit but the reader is not supposed to think of that, for the aim, as before, is to give pleasure. If at the same time the mind is broadened, so much the better.

This time we are not averse to history and we turn of course to Scott. The mention of his name conjures up memories of *Ivanhoe*, *Kenilworth*, *Quentin Durward*, his better known romances, but it is with one that is

less familiar that I should like to begin the list.

The romance in question, the "Abbot" is a sequel to the "Monastery" but can be read quite independently of the other. It is easy to read in the modern sense for the story runs along continuously and so far as the youthful reader is concerned hinges upon the adventures of young Roland Graeme, who is reared as a page in the castle to which he is the rightful heir. In reality the value of the book lies in the chapters depicting the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots in Loch Leven castle and her escape therefrom, in which latter event the young hero and the Queen's pretty maid of honor, Catherine Seyton have a part.

Charles Reade's *Cloister and the hearth* is one of the most delightful of historical romances. The characters belong to history but they played such minor parts on the world's stage that the author is free to mould them at will; this he has done with consummate skill, making his puppets most life like and human. The love story is that of the parents of Erasmus, and fifteenth century life in the Low countries and Italy is most vividly rendered. There is a delicate bit of "how to judge a picture" in Gerard's criticism of Pietro Vanucci's Madonna, and a gentle hint to mothers in the author's remarks concerning the home training of young Erasmus. As to sentiment and adventure there is a plenty of both and the young reader can both weep and smile to heart's content.

Harrison Ainsworth has written at least one novel suitable for this list. *The Tower of London* fascinated him. It has so many mysterious crypts, halls and stairs, dungeons, towers and ghost-haunted chapels that he fell under its spell. His novel which deals chiefly with the short lived reign of Lady Jane Grey is as full of mystery, plot and counter-plot as the Tower itself and the reader has a surprise awaiting him with the beginning of each chapter.

The nineteenth century being the great novel age, it is small wonder that even the great poets could not keep them out of their rhymes. And since a novel is a novel whether in prose or rhyme, Mrs Browning's *Lady Geraldine's courtship* and Tennyson's *Princess* may be classed as such. The former tale of the high born lady whose humble suitor dared not tell his love, is as sweet and sentimental as one could desire and rhyme and metre should not stand in the way of its appreciation.

The second is too well known to need description but it reads easily and pleases the female mind, and the exquisite little lyrics with which it is adorned cannot fail to sing themselves into the reader's heart.

The "Old curiosity shop" takes us away from towers and castles and just so long as Dickens keeps away from them too, we are at ease in his company. The humor and pathos of this story, the deep-dyed villainy of Quilp, the angelic sweetness of little Nell and the quiet and rest of village life have made and kept this book a favorite.

Having read *Jane Eyre*, a story so largely biographical, the *Life of Charlotte Brontë*, by Mrs Gaskell can be offered most successfully to the reader, and it will be found that the lives of real people are often quite as worth looking into as are those of the creatures of their imagination.

Mrs Gaskell having done some creative work of her own, it will not be amiss to include her best and most popular tale, *Cranford*, that humorous and tender description of the sleepy little English village where men were so scarce and the spinsters were forced to practice so much genteel economy, and where every innocent happening, a tea, a lecture, a marriage, caused a ripple of excitement. How pleasant and dear they are, these little pastel ladies with their caps and mincing ways and their quaint propriety.

Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson do not by rights belong in the company of the greybeards here

assembled, but the former leads so gently "Through the magic door" into their pages that he has somehow slipped in himself and the latter surely is worthy of a place among the immortals, not the first seat at the board perhaps, yet still as one of their goodly company. The *Inland voyage*, that pleasant boat trip on French and Belgian waterways, has been chosen for this list. It is one of Stevenson's early works but is a perfect example of his charm of style and the mild adventures on canal and stream and the whimsical descriptions of queer little inns make the most delightful reading.

Washington Irving's *Sketch book* pleases in the same way and although our young people are doubtless familiar with several of the stories there are still some choice pages that will come as a surprise to them.

The last on this list must be a Thackeray, and for the sake of that dearest and most lovable of the author's creations, Colonel Newcome, let it be the book that chronicles the doings of the family of that name. The Newcomes are not all as genial and kindly as the Colonel, nor is the tale without tears, but we have had smiles and adventures enough in our course of reading, harsh notes and melodious strains sufficient to enable us to wind up in a minor key and like the novelty of the change, especially as all the discord finally ends in harmony.

After these books Leigh Hunt's autobiography, a little Ruskin, some Eliot, Lamb and other works of some of the authors above given will very likely prove acceptable and the reader may begin to realize that there is such a thing as literature and take pride in the fact.

There is a third list, which was designed especially for the boy and the young man but western stories, adventure, deeds of daring and sea stories are always to the liking of a healthy young mind and so long as there is plenty of action the youth cares little whether the book be old or new, a classic or the latest thing out.

A. L. A. Meetings

The Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

You invite opinions upon the frequency of A. L. A. meetings. I have long been of the opinion that annual meetings were too frequent and occasional attendance has not changed my view. As, however, one does not need to attend every meeting, I do not know that there is great profit in agitation. Another circumstance I feel much more deeply about—the place of meeting. For some years meetings have been held in the country or in small cities. Earlier the great centers were rather frequently chosen. Upon both the frequency of meetings and upon the country place I heard adverse comments at Kaaterskill, but with the postscript of resignation, "I suppose they would never hear to change." That convenient scape-goat of "they," upon whom democracy shifts its own responsibilities! In this case I hardly see who "they" are. Certainly there has been no great number who have even approximated attendance at every meeting; most of those I suppose would probably be indifferent whether meetings were annual or biennial.

As to the place of meeting. Without attempting great accuracy, I reckoned up the proportions among the attendants at Kaaterskill and found that they were fairly divisible into three about equal numbers: Those from great centers like New York and Boston; those from centers of a hundred thousand or thereabouts, and those from small cities or the country. Now to the latter class the advantage of a week in or about one of our great cities, where familiarity could be secured with really great libraries is so very obvious that no minority would be so hardened as to shoulder responsibility for despoiling the majority of that advantage; for it may be assumed, that in this matter the dwellers in moderate sized cities would be at one with the country folk.

Of course, we all enjoy the wondrous beauty of the Catskills, the blinding sunset blaze of Mackinac, but we country librarians, at least, need occasionally something else and we need it very

much. Nor is it sufficient answer to say that we can satisfy that need at some other time. We are too cramped both for time and money to make frequent excursions to the city. Perhaps Washington or New York is the Mecca of a lifetime. Much more truly can it be said, with rapid transportation, that the country is every day accessible to the city dweller.

I would therefore plead that the A. L. A. meet not infrequently in the great centers, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago. If it were feasible once in a while to have a meeting, not in the heat of the summer, that, too, would be a grateful dispensation.

Brookings, S. Dak.

WM. H. POWERS.

* * *

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

There is no doubt but that a great many members of the A. L. A. will protest against the idea of less frequent meetings and the consequent lack of opportunity to get into frequent touch with the library interests of the country, and personally I think something broader than the state meetings is desirable, if not necessary. The recent increase of joint meetings of the librarians of several states shows the demand for this, and the results of such meetings seem to justify the efforts used to make them useful and helpful. At present, of course, they are not in all cases held regularly, and in only a few parts of the United States. But if the whole country were divided into sections, to include areas whose centers could be easily reached by those whose salaries do not permit them to attend, say, more than one in five of the general meetings at present, why would these sectional meetings not be a satisfactory substitute for the general annual meetings, if the latter were held only once in three or four years? The point you make about the council meetings ought to quiet those who demand a general meeting at least once a year. If representatives or delegates from other sections could take part in the program of each sectional meeting,

they would give to these meetings somewhat of the character of general meetings, even if all parts of the country were not equally represented. They are certainly not equally represented at present in the general meetings, wherever these are held.

If the general meeting were substituted for the sectional meetings every three or four years, there would be more inducement to attend it than is the case with the too frequent annual meetings at present, and we ought to have much better general meetings.

To provide for the library interests of the different states, the programs of the sectional meetings might include sessions at which questions peculiar to each state could be discussed by librarians of that state. Of course, if the state commissions and library leaders of a state wanted to force more meetings on the poor jaded librarians, they could do so, but this ought not to be necessary except when the state commissions are either too poorly supported or inefficient to reach all parts of the state in any other way.

With the elimination of most of the state meetings, the money and effort now expended upon them could be used for the sectional and general meetings of the A. L. A., and this part of the privileges of membership would be of greater benefit than at present.

R. L. WALKLEY.

Washington, D. C.

Art Cloth

November 14, 1913.

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

As it is possible that the use of monk's cloth in art rooms or other exhibition galleries may not be familiar to all readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, I will venture to state that we have found this by all odds the most useful material to serve as a background for displaying any kind of picture of moderate size and weight. It has the great advantage of neutral tint so that practically any colored photograph can be hung upon it with good result, and it also shows the dirt very little.

It can be bought, I presume, at any dry goods store; in Worcester it costs 65 cents a yard. It can, of course, be stretched and tacked with little trouble or expense to a wooden frame of whatever size may be desired.

ROBERT K. SHAW,
Librarian.

Co-operative Lists

In 1909 two "coöperative" library lists were published, one a list of "Practical books for practical boys," by a large hardware company in New York, the other a list of "Books for home builders; Planning, decorating, furnishing," issued by the Sherwin-Williams Company. About 50,000 copies of each were printed, and 25 or 30 of the larger libraries distributed them, the copies having the imprint of the various libraries.

These lists were received with much satisfaction by the libraries, and the "Home builders" list was revised in 1911, and a second edition published and distributed. The undersigned has been requested to make a new revision, to include the many valuable books published within the last two years. In order to make this list as widely useful as possible, he would ask those libraries wishing consignments of 500, 1,000 or 2,000 copies to send word to him (at the Los Angeles public library). A copy of the second edition will be mailed to those interested, together with a list of the new books which will be included in the third edition.

As other lists of this co-operative nature are now proposed, something may be said in regard to the general plan involved. The Los Angeles public library, like most other libraries, finds itself unable for lack of printing funds to compile and publish the many lists which it would like to publish, and for which it sees a decided need. The opportunity of securing a consignment of attractive and well compiled lists at no cost (except expressage), appeals to it as one which should be taken advantage of. The business company which pays for publishing the list is allowed to print its name on

the title page, and to have one or two pages of advertising in the back of the list. It is in exchange for the advertising that the companies are willing (or consent) to assume the expense of the project.

Pamphlet lists of books on housekeeping; machine shop work, and business, are now proposed; each to be printed by some company of national reputation. In order to show the value which these lists might have to thirty or forty of the largest libraries, and to thousands of their patrons, and also to suggest the "economic waste" (for want of a better term) which would result in case all of these libraries should not take advantage of the plan, it might be asked: How many of these libraries have, individually, printed subject lists of this sort on all or any one of these topics; how many libraries can afford to print them this year or next; how many thousands of books could be usefully circulated by the libraries through the distribution of the lists to present non-library users in their cities and finally, in case all the libraries could afford to print their own lists, how much time would be consumed by thirty libraries in compiling four lists each or one hundred and twenty in all?

To reduce the expenditure of time and money that would result in duplicated effort and to alter the present condition, under which practically no such lists are actually being circulated, the libraries are urged to support this plan, which is meant to help each and all, and to which, as far as I know, only one librarian has raised an objection. This objection (that the library should not help to advertise some commercial concern), is one which has not been supported by the written or verbal opinions of the public or other librarians, in the case of the two lists already issued, which in their plan, appearance and results have been pleasing and useful to all concerned.

The commercial features of these have been unobjectionable to anyone as the plan of co-operation between the companies and the libraries has been evident to all who used the lists.

Those libraries, therefore, which care to help themselves and each other in this way, are requested to make response to this notice.

JOSEPH L. WHEELER.

The Tale of an Experimenter

The tale of "An Experimenter" has excited considerable interest, and some of the comments are refreshing. For instance,

"The tale of the troublous course of An Experimenter is lovely. I suppose it is a girl's tale. A man of course would not discourse on paying 50 cents and not getting his money's worth. It is lovely about Dr Steiner's personally conducted walking parties. Why not talking parties, too? It is quite wrong about the chairs. Longing for a chair was no part of the itinerary, and besides, mossy paths or stones or fallen trees make very satisfactory substitutes."

Another, "The tale of An Experimenter is worth a year's subscription to PUBLIC LIBRARIES. I haven't enjoyed anything so much for a long time."

Another, "I hope the Experimenter didn't find out so much this time that he (?) or she (?) will know too much to write so refreshingly next time."

All of which is gratefully acknowledged.
A. E.

Membership in A. L. A.

Some statistics of the membership of the A. L. A. as given in the A. L. A. Handbook for 1913 are interesting.

New York state continues to have the largest membership, 458. Massachusetts follows with 281, and Illinois is third, with 235. Canada membership fell from 94 for 1912, to 43, 1913. Mississippi and Arkansas tie for lowest place, each having only one member. In foreign membership England leads, with Germany second. There are four honorary members, three perpetual members, two life fellows, and 95 life members, with a total membership of 2,563.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Library Bureau | - - - - - | Publishers |
| M. E. AHERN | - - - - - | Editor |
| Subscription | - - - - - | \$2 a year |
| Five copies to one library | - - - - - | \$8 a year |
| Single number | - - - - - | 25 cents |
| Foreign subscriptions | - - - - - | \$2.25 a year |

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Handicap of Illinois libraries.— The libraries of Illinois did not benefit by the amendment of the Juul law passed by the last General Assembly, as was supposed at the time. Opinion is now given that this amendment does not affect library taxes, and libraries therefore find themselves in cramped conditions, for no other reason than because they were used as part of the material to move political chaff by the General Assembly of 1911.

It is most deplorable that the various committees appointed by the Illinois library association, the Illinois trustees' association, and above all, the so-called Library commission of Illinois, were not more effective in their work, not to say more faithful in their duties when this matter was up last winter.

Nothing was done by them and the politicians who were looking after the things of interest to themselves refused

to allow individuals interested to even mention libraries in the matter. Now it will be at least three years before there can be legal remedy applied to the situation.

In the meantime, many of the libraries are almost paralyzed in the conduct of their extension work, indeed, many of them find it extremely hard to make both ends meet in the running expenses. The sad thing about this is that the more active, the more alive, the greater demands on it, the more deplorable the situation.

Among these may be mentioned the Public library of Evanston, one of the best in its class. The various make-shifts and sacrifices of the staff to meet a situation in nowise of their making, are grievous to be borne under the circumstances. The time and the strength which the staff needs and ought to have for rest and recreation is used in finding out ways and means to meet the demands on the library beyond its ability to supply.

One of the latest and most praiseworthy efforts is an appeal sent out to the city. Among other things, we find the following:

"Hamlet with Hamlet left out" is no more serious a situation than a library without a book fund, and hence the librarian is constrained to make this appeal for help. Will not each reader who possibly can, check off one book from the following list, and give it to the library, or be responsible for, and the library will buy it at the usual library discount of from 10 to 20 per cent?

It is to be hoped that the long and faithful service of the librarian and her staff for the public of Evanston will meet with the appreciation that it should, aside from a pride in sustaining the stricken library, and that the library will continue to be as splendidly effective as an educational institution as it has been in the past.

The rejected book.—"The public library is an integral part of public education." If this be so, and we are as yet to hear a denial of it, the claim that is made in some quarters that being a tax-supported institution, the library should furnish to the public such literature as the latter desires to have does not square with the axiom. There is no more reason for such a claim in regard to the library than for any other institution, public or semi-public, in its service.

Those in charge of the library, trustees and librarians, are given authority to conduct the institution with the tacit understanding that it shall be for the good of the people. In the park systems, in the public schools, public museums, public concerts, and any other effort wholly or in part for the use of the people, there is no question of interfering in a haphazard fashion with the conduct of the several affairs. Why should there be with the public library? And particularly why the excited discussion forced upon the attention at every turn, of the aim of those whose business it is to choose material that will best serve the ends of the library in its public service?

No library has sufficient money to buy the literary material which is avowedly necessary in its educational work, about which there can be no question. How foolish, then, for it to strive to attain those things of which the advisability of possessing there is a large question. Granting, for the moment, that there is a modicum of good in some of the books which certain newspapers and writers are urging the public library to buy, it cannot be gainsaid that the number of readers dependent upon the public library for these particular volumes is a very

negligible quantity, while the number of serious students, pupils in the public schools and occupational investigators are legion, and with the funds at the disposal of the library authorities, it is utterly impossible to provide as adequately for these latter as public welfare demands.

To be sure, there are instances in the history of any library where the use of one book by one member of the community has returned to that community and to the world uncalculable benefit, witness Edison, Westinghouse and others, but the books which helped them are of a far different quality from those which some newspapers and many esoteric writers are demanding should be on the shelves of the public library.

It was recently well said in a western newspaper which does not belong to the class of which it speaks:

To put it negatively, the function of the public library emphatically is not to aid and supplement the work of gutter journalism by disseminating trash and putridity. Librarians fallible as literary censors? Assuredly. They are liable to make mistakes sometimes, and exclude what a later and riper judgment would say they should have admitted.

Then such mistakes may be rectified. But in nine cases out of ten the judgment of a librarian and his aids that a book is not fit for a public library to serve out to its patrons hits the mark—provided they measure up to their responsibilities.

It should be the concern of the library not to undo whatever good may come from such a "sin of omission," by self-praising the action, for, as the paper before quoted points out, "Suppression in the name of cleanliness is the best of advertisements and insures large sales."

Illinois state library service.—Since its organization, the Traveling library commission of Illinois has maintained that it was unable to do the work which the backward condition of library matters in

the state called for, because of lack of funds.

From the Session laws of the General Assembly of 1913, it would seem that such advancement had been made in the appropriation as would remove this obstacle for effective work, and doubtless before long the small libraries of Illinois that need help, and the communities which need direction with regard to library affairs, will receive the attention long overdue them. It is learned from the records that there is an appropriation of \$5,300 annually placed at their disposal, and this is considerably more than many good strong library associations had as early in their careers. The library people have been patient with those in charge of these matters sufficiently long to begin to warrant their expectations being met, in some degree at least, by effective work on the part of the library commission.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES has maintained from the first that the commission as at present organized by law, is an anomaly, an unnecessary appendage of the State library, but even such an organization as it is, with the right spirit, could render the assistance so long and so much needed by the feeble library interest of the State of Illinois, and endeavor, even under the circumstances, to push any worthy effort looking to the betterment of conditions. At present, so far as is known, there is nothing in the work of the commission that measures up to standard, and it is highly desirable that these conditions are changed forthwith with the appropriation now available.

The State library has an appropriation of \$33,400. In this, there is a salary for six assistants. These things ought to bring the State library up to a better state of efficiency than at present obtains. The Legislative reference library has an appropriation of \$25,000, and while its work is largely with the legislature in the matter of preparing information concerning legislation, still, it is expected to use the material in the State library. This must be organized before it can be of much use in that work.

Secretary Woods, who is ex-officio

State librarian, has advanced Mrs Eva H. Fowler, who was in line of promotion under civil service appointment in the State library, to the position of assistant librarian. Mrs Fowler is a graduate of University of Indiana, had one year's work in Illinois library school, and two years' service in Indiana State library before going to Illinois State library.

The library interests of Illinois have suffered in silence entirely too long in view of the money that is paid out for service that has not been rendered, and it would seem to be high time that something was demanded of the "powers that be," more than is being furnished at the present time.

Has a time of better service to libraries by the constituted authorities in the State arrived? The answer cannot be long delayed.

Library Supplies

The Russell Sage Foundation library has been reclassified and recataloged during the past year and a half. During these months of work we have tried out methods, and made many experiments which, with conclusions reached, may be suggestive and perhaps helpful to those who are about to do what we have done. It is with the desire to help other librarians about to reclassify and recatalog, that we record here some of the processes involved.

The Sage Foundation library is the union of several libraries on charity and social problems which have been housed for some years in the United Charities building. The oldest collection was started by the Charity Organization Society in 1882. The administration of these early libraries was lax—the records of the library committee in one case stating that it was hard to get librarians who were "sufficiently enthusiastic and intelligent to give it voluntary care." Furthermore, the catalog being of the author and subject type and on thin paper slips, was not adapted to the demands made upon it for research work. The union of the various libraries was an opportune time to reclassify, recatalog and round out the collection.

Classification

Naturally the first step was to settle upon some existing classification, or to make one especially designed for a sociological collection. After much advice had been sought and carefully considered, the latter idea was dropped and the various systems of classification were studied and applied to our own highly specialized collection. In spite of several evident demerits, the Dewey decimal classification was accepted finally, as the best for our purposes. This classification with necessary modifications has more than proven the wisdom of our choice.

Labels

The library consisted of 10,000 volumes with paper labels arranged at all heights, every book having upon its back from three to six paper labels and one or two extra classification numbers in white ink, for good measure. There were various labels representing perhaps the grades of "enthusiasm and intelligence" of different classifiers, while books in sets had the classification that belonged to them individually and another number to indicate the books' location if kept in sets—their maiden name and married name so far as classification went. To remove, at a low estimate, 30,000 labels quickly, and not injure the books, was solved with a tin tea-kettle costing fifteen cents and an electric plate costing five dollars. The steam from the nose of the little tin kettle made quick work of the labels and was used also for removing printed material from the inside of book covers, part of a former charging system. Wood alcohol cut the heavy, thick shellac on some of the books where notation had been applied directly. A cloth dampened in wood alcohol was found to be excellent for cleaning the covers of some of the older books. For soiled volumes in light binding, a cloth moistened with gasoline worked wonders.

A large number of the books were too badly worn to be repaired with the Gaylord gummed cloth, and these were sent to the binders, the Otto Knoll Company, 732 Lexington avenue, New York, who

are excellent binders, and whose charges are reasonable.

Cards

After the books were shorn of all labels, repaired and cleaned, they were classified and made ready for the cataloging. Consideration of the best weight and quality of cards resulted in the selection of No. 33030, made by the Library Bureau. The red tops to these cards have made them far more serviceable as they are not soiled readily with much hard usage. The use of a large number of guides protected by celluloid, made by the Library Bureau, make easier the consultation of the catalog.

Typewriters

To nothing was more attention given than in the selection of typewriters for making, as nearly as possible, perfect cards. A questionnaire brought little help, as librarians did not agree on the best, while others would not express an opinion lest it be used as advertising. The only way, therefore, was to try out one after another, the many machines on the market, a slow and tedious process. Special card attachments were made and weeks of tinkering seemed to bring little success until the Royal Typewriter Company finally worked out its card attachment, which is well nigh perfect. I do not think there is any machine which can do finer card work than the Royal, and I have yet to see one that can do as good work. An aid toward perfect card work is the Kee Lox light-inked ribbon, made by the Kee Lox Manufacturing Company, Rochester, N. Y. The cards will not smudge if this ribbon is used.

Pens, ink and varnish

After the work spent in removing the collection of labels from the books, we were careful in adding new ones. All books were lettered uniformly with white ink, 1¼ inches from the bottom. We found David's Letterine the best for this purpose. The usual objection to white ink, that it is hard to use, is removed if Esterbrook Telegraphic pens No. 1876 are used. The pen should also always be dipped into a wet sponge before dip-

ping into the ink. If these suggestions are followed the use of white ink is simple.

It was surprising to find how many libraries used a certain well known shellac which is thick, heavy and does not leave a good finish. A French varnish made by C. W. Keenan, Brooklyn, N. Y., is the best of those tried out. It costs fifty cents for a good sized bottle. One coat of this varnish was applied before lettering in white ink and another after lettering, which makes the notation permanent.

Such in brief are some of our conclusions as to the relative value of certain commercial articles which one must consider in recataloging. All are open to a divergence of opinion, but all were adopted only after careful scrutiny and experimentation. If there is anything of help to some other small library in the throes of recataloging, then the purpose of this paper is fulfilled.

FREDERICK WARREN JENKINS,
Librarian.

Brussels Congress, 1910, Reports

The Commission permanente des Congrès internationaux des Archivistes et des Bibliothécaires has issued in a separate pamphlet the resolutions passed by the Congrès de Bruxelles de 1910. Under the section, archives, are resolutions favoring a general bibliography of the publications of archives, the preservation of current archives, and of parish registers, professional training for archivists, the collection of material bearing on current economic history, free access to collections of archives, and the use of the best ink and paper in order to insure permanence of records.

The second section, libraries, includes resolutions in favor of increased exchange of university theses and adequate cataloging of the same, a bureau of information for libraries at some central library in each country, professional training for librarians, suppression of the lending of books and manuscripts through diplomatic

channels, the annual publication of lists of the public documents of the various countries, the establishment of international exchanges through the coöperation of governments with learned societies and scientific institutions, some national provision for the sale and exchange of duplicates, the placing of the position of librarian on a par with that of the head of other departments in state or city, the compulsory submitting of plans for a library building to the librarian, the maintaining of large general libraries as well as of special libraries, an international system of printing books for the blind, the stamping of books on the back of the title page in a place corresponding exactly to the position of the title on the other side of the leaf, the adequate registering in each country of new books published in that country, an international code for the alphabetical catalog, the extension of inter-library loans, the publishing by learned societies of a complete list of their publications on the cover of the last annual fascicle.

The third section deals with exhibitions and supplementary collections connected with archives and libraries. The fourth section is devoted to popular libraries, and calls for the development of these libraries as a part of the educational system, for the wise choice of books calculated to interest children in national history, for good locations for such libraries, and for the grouping of them under strong central administration.

The Commission permanente is constituted of the Bureau de la Commission centrale d'organisation du Congrès de 1910, of two delegates appointed by each coöperating association, and of two representatives (one librarian, one archivist) chosen by the Bureau from countries in which no association exists. The Commission permanente has its headquarters at Brussels, and the Bureau of the Commission d'organisation du Congrès de 1910 acts as the Bureau of the Commission permanente.

The Library in High Places

At the meeting of the Association of American universities, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., Nov. 7-8, W. Dawson Johnston, librarian of Columbia university, presented the topic, "The library as a university factor."

Mr Johnston said in part:

In considering the library as a university factor, the following questions present themselves:

1. To what extent is consolidation and centralization of libraries of a university desirable? It is important to preserve in the general university library all collections of value to more than one school, but all collections of value to a single school or department, or purchased primarily for the use of a given school or department, should be organized as a branch of the university library. Such a department collection may be separate and distinct from the collections in the general library; or it may be composed of duplicates of books in the general library, or of books temporarily transferred to the department.

While consolidation of university libraries is undesirable, centralization of administration is not only desirable, but indispensable in an efficient and economical administration, particularly in the accessioning of books and in all the clerical and mechanical work of the libraries.

2. What should be the membership and powers of the several library committees? It is important that there should be more than one library committee in a university. In addition to a library committee of the board of trustees there should be a committee of the staff of the library, or library council, representing both the administrative departments of the university library and the department libraries and having all the powers of an administrative council. Finally there should be committees representing the faculty of each of the important schools or groups of departments, having advisory powers regarding the allotment of book funds and the library policies to be pursued in their respective departments.

3. What should be the professional qualifications and academic status of members of the library staff? It is imperative that a clear distinction be made between the clerical work of a library and its bibliographical service. The requirements for admission to the bibliographical service or library staff proper should be equal to those for admission to the teaching staff. The opportunities for continued study and research also should be similar.

Efforts have been made by the American

medical association council on education, the Association of American law schools and other agencies to standardize the library service of professional and other university schools. The investigations inaugurated by these bodies should be carried on and the results correlated with a view to the elaboration of well defined university library policies.

Professor Guy Stanton Ford at the same meeting presented "The library and the graduate school." An outline of Professor Ford's address is as follows:

Central character of library in all graduate work. Importance of early and complete recognition of this position.

Vital points to graduate school in library policy and administration.

- a. Central vs. seminar libraries.
- b. The committee system vs. librarian.
- c. Apportionment of funds.
- d. Expenditure of funds.

Graduate departments, sets, funds, exchanges, cooperative buying, etc.

University rivalry in building up libraries. Possibilities of inter-university policy in directing library expansion.

It is a noteworthy fact that this is the first time in the history of this association that the library subject has been presented.

Liberty Square Branch Library, Elizabeth, N. J.

Edward L. Tilton, architect

The new Liberty Square branch library at Elizabeth, N. J., was opened to the public on September 13 of this year. Mayor Macaulay, Hon E. D. Smith, Hon Wm. J. Magie and Dr J. P. Reilly made interesting addresses. The building was then opened for the inspection of the public.

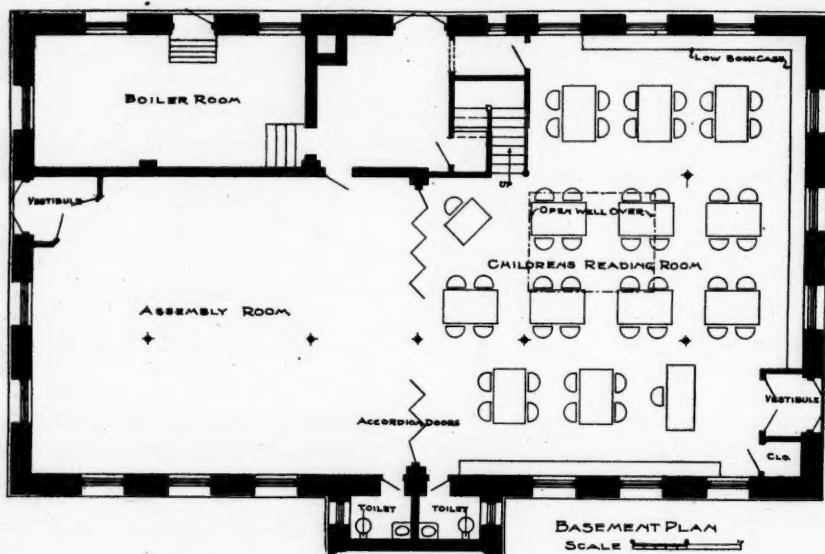
The branch is situated in the section of the city formerly called Elizabethport on the old Kings Highway or Post Road over which Washington is reputed to have traveled from Philadelphia to New York. Another reference of historic interest might be made to the stone on the corner of the lot protected by an iron fence and inscribed with the date 1694. The stone marked the dividing line of private properties and that of the Kings Highway.

Enhanced by such associations the site

seems happily chosen for a library, whose portals open to us the history of the past as well as inspiration for the present and visions of the future.

In designing the building no archaeological style was attempted but a simple straightforward stone and brick expres-

mize the number of attendants. It consists of an opening or a well in the floor, as shown on the accompanying plans and illustrations, protected on three sides by low bookcases and a plate glass screen, which screen extends to the floor on the fourth side and opposite to it, on the



sion with large windows on the front to invite entrance and smaller ones on the rear to discourage departure or, more practically, to give space for wall shelving.

Advantage was taken of the natural grades of the plot to give basement entrances on street level thereby making this story complete in attractiveness with the main floor above. In the basement is a lecture room with a capacity of 150 seats opening, by accordion doors, into the children's room.

The boiler room is sunken to a lower level and adjacent to this is a general utility or work room.

A stairway connects the children's room with the main floor and supervision of this room from the charging counter above is assured by an unique arrangement originated by the author to mini-

faciate the number of attendants. It consists of an opening or a well in the floor, not directly visible from the charging counter. This well, furthermore, seems to associate the lower floor with the upper, producing a moral effect of great advantage.

The general construction of the building was done, under contract, by the F. G. Fearon Co., Inc., of New York, who have been specializing in library construction, in 150 working days, or 75 days less than was stipulated in the contract. The shelving and furniture were made and installed by the Library Bureau.

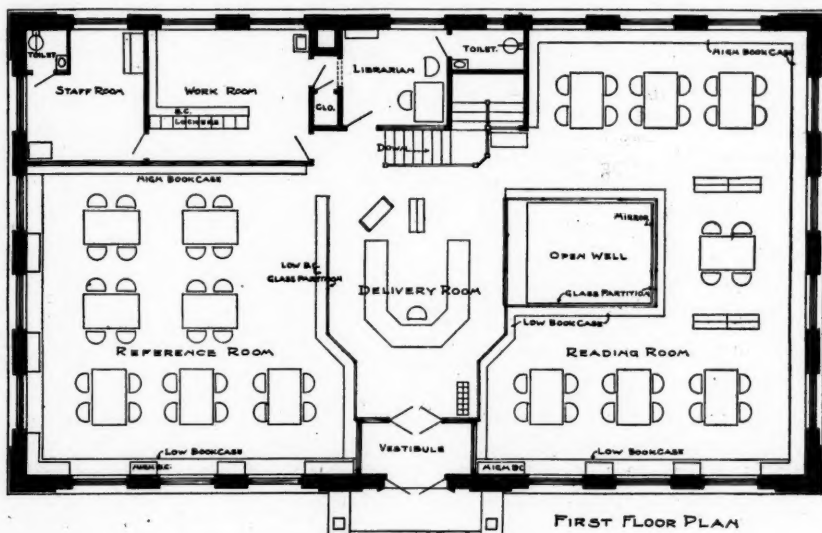
The cost of the building, exclusive of furniture and equipment, approximated \$23,000, or 24c per cubic foot; the total cost, inclusive of equipment, \$31,000, or about 30c per cubic foot.

On the main floor 56 chairs are provided at 14 tables of regulation (3 feet by 5 feet) size; in the children's room 48 chairs at 12 tables, making a total present accommodation for 104 readers, which divided into the cost complete of the building (\$31,000) makes each seat

would be assured, in this instance, if the shelving were all made full height.

The heating of the rooms is concealed back of the wall shelving by a system inaugurated by the author several years ago.

The lighting is ample; the glass area



represent an expense of but approximately \$300. If comparison, similarly computed, be made with other libraries, the above will be disclosed as very economical; furthermore 25 square feet of average floor area is allotted to each seat.

The present volume capacity of the building does not show up quite so well as the seating since the librarian required, and properly, for better supervision, 40 per cent of the shelving to be low, three and four shelves high on the first floor and five shelves high in the basement; but even so there is accommodation for 12,500 volumes based on eight volumes per lineal foot.

The author estimates for an open plan of this character that \$2 divided into the total cost (\$31,000) or 15,500 volumes is a fair allowance and such a capacity

of the windows equalling one-fifth of floor area while the electric lighting is figured at one watt per square foot of floor area.

A special development of the German movement for general education through libraries and other means is the establishment of Wandertheater (traveling theaters) to play the best dramas at small expense, and with due regard to their educational values. Four or five such Wandertheater now exist in Germany, some of them having been in operation for six years. The admission is often as low as ten cents, and the enterprise has been self-sustaining. The educational Vereine and the societies of actors coöperate. A similar plan for Austria is under consideration.

Joint Meeting at St. Joseph, Mo.

An enjoyable joint meeting of the Kansas-Missouri library associations was held at St. Joseph, Oct. 22-24, 1913, by invitation of President Rush and the Executive Board of the Missouri library association.

Miss M. E. Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, Miss Maud van Buren of the American civic association, Dr. Jay William Hudson of the University of Missouri, especially invited guests of the two associations, members of the Board of the St. Joseph public library and members of the two state associations made this a memorable gathering.

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 22, by Mr Rush, president of the Missouri library association.

Mr Rush, after a few words of greeting, introduced Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Library Board of St. Joseph public library, who most cordially welcomed the visitors to St. Joseph, "The road to Paradise." Mrs Nellie G. Beatty, president of the Kansas library association made a pleasing response saying that "In the hands of your friends" was synonymous with this gathering at St. Joseph.

Responding to the keynote of the conference, "Without the love of books the richest man is poor," James L. King, librarian of the Kansas State library, at Topeka, said in part:

There is something in the world besides money. The millionaire who provides a community with a playground has done well, but men like Eugene Field and James Whitcomb Riley have done better, because they have inspired the children of the land with a zest for play and have enriched their lives with a grace and charm of song and story.

Not a multiplicity of books, but the proper use of books is the most potent influence in our modern system of education. The man who has read two books and read them well, one of them the Bible, is a bookish and well-read man. A person who reads a good book gets back some change, and the men who do not

read books are regular callers upon those who do.

Books and the making of books and the gathering of them into libraries are matters which the money-making world regards carelessly. Most of the fortune hunters do not stop to consider how nearly the common literature which is accessible to the people lies to the foundation of society. It has been impossible, since there was an alphabet, to govern a song-writing and book-making people by any but just laws.

Miss Mary E. Ahern of Chicago, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, and the representative of the American library association at this joint meeting gave the evening address "The fifth kingdom and the keeper of its treasures."

The kingdom of books may be added to the mineral, animal, vegetable and spiritual kingdoms and the librarian is its keeper. Librarians must not yield to the idea that mere association with books makes one learned. They must not lose the inclination and facility for a study of the soul of books. As the keeper of the treasures the librarian must know the source, the character, the quality, the lineage, the use, the timeliness, and the destiny of books. The library serves its purpose best when the right book gets to the right person at the right time even if there are some defects in the system.

It will be a sad and fatal day for democracy when the trade idea governs education and the use of books. Industrial education, without knowledge of the world's best literature, or an opening of the mind to ideas of government, personal and civic relations, to the world of fancy and beauty, will brutalize any people. The ruling thought of any kingdom should be the happiness and welfare of its people by the best use possible of all powers within the kingdom. So it should be in the kingdom of books.

The "Field Frolic" followed Miss Ahern's talk. The guests were invited to the children's room. On the way down stairs, queerly wrapped favors were presented to each guest and inside

these were whistles and fool's caps. Immediately the air, so recently enriched with the words of famous literary geniuses, was filled with laughter and shrill whistles. Wearing the dunce caps all crowded about the witches' kettle in the center of the room where Miss Martina Martin, president of the St. Joseph Story-telling league, dressed as an old negro aunty, sat telling ghost stories and made every one feel Eugene Field's delight in fairies and witches as she told us the story of "Tailbone." Later she appeared as a witch and so transfixed her audience that even the wisest had to do her bidding and so Dr Bostwick played Yankee Doodle on a comb, a quartet sang "My bonnie lies over the ocean" and others did amusing stunts.

The stereopticon, which threw on the canvas the picture story of Hänsel and Gretel delighted all. This is owned by the St. Joseph public library and used in the children's room. Hallowe'en refreshments were served and all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Thursday morning after the business sessions, each librarian attended the Round table which would interest him most.

Miss Ahern conducted the Small libraries round table.

Mr Kerr conducted the College and university libraries round table.

Dr Bostwick conducted the Large libraries round table.

Round table for large libraries

The first discussion was on Sex problems in the selection of juvenile literature. Miss Osburn of Baldwin, Kansas lead the discussion and was followed by Miss McLachlan of Hannibal and Mr Wright of Kansas City.

The next discussion was about the typewriter, rotary neostyle, multigraph, writer press, cameragraph and kinetoscope as librarian's tools. Miss Francis, Topeka, Kansas, led the discussion and was followed by Dr Bostwick and Mr Wright.

The discussion of the practical care of pamphlets, clippings and pictures was opened by Mr Bundy, Leavenworth, Kansas, and followed by Miss Burger,

Kansas City, and Mr Cunningham, Rolla. A most interesting exhibit of scrap books, mounted pictures, and suggestions for holiday entertainments was sent by the St. Louis public library.

Branches in city school buildings had able champions in Mrs Greenman, Kansas City, Kansas, Mr Blackwelder, St. Louis, and Mr Wright, Kansas City.

As is the purpose of Round tables no definite conclusions were decided upon but the interesting discussions benefited and informed all present.

Round-table for college and university libraries

The college and university round table, on Thursday morning, was attended by representatives of both Kansas and Missouri State universities, Missouri School of mines, Kansas Agricultural college, six state normal schools (three from each state), and five colleges. Mr Kerr, of Emporia State normal school, presided, and the following topics were discussed with interest:

The care and use of clippings and pamphlets was presented by Jesse Cunningham, librarian of Missouri School of mines, Rolla, and chairman of the Special libraries association committee on this subject. The practices prevailing in the libraries represented were found to coincide with the general types of practice reported by Mr Cunningham.

Steps advisable in the systematizing of unorganized institution libraries were discussed by Elta V. Savage, of Kansas Agricultural college at Manhattan, and Alice Blair, of Warrensburg State normal school. Attention was called to the possibility of helping institutions whose libraries are not upon a modern basis and whose librarians are seldom permitted to attend library gatherings.

Reaching the community outside the campus was presented by C. E. Wells, of Maryville State normal-school. Helpful coöperation with women's clubs, teachers, and citizens, to the limit of the library's capability was urged, and was found to be the practice.

The possibilities of extension work were reported by Mr A. B. Smith, librarian of Kansas Agricultural college. It

has been the hope of the Kansas Agricultural college library that it might have a member of staff authorized to travel throughout the state, organizing rural social center libraries and bringing the farms into touch with the best practical and cultural books. The University of Kansas already has developed a very large work with women's clubs in high school debating leagues, and municipal organizations, several thousand package libraries having been sent out last year. Similarly, it has been the hope of the Emporia State normal school library to have a school library organizer as a member of its staff, to visit the schools throughout the state and assist in the selection, care, and use of school libraries, the call for such work being already insistent.

Carrie M. Watson, librarian of the University of Kansas, spoke suggestively upon the important topic, The encouragement of the students in the ownership of books.

H. O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, told of practical methods in handling the budget of an institutional library.

Other topics considered were: Loan systems for a college library, How to induce teachers to be definite in reference assignments, and Care and use of newspapers in the college library.

Round-table for small libraries

The small libraries round table, Thursday morning, attracted many librarians from the two states. The leader was Miss Ahern, of Chicago.

Books for the farm was generally discussed by Mrs Belle Curry, of Parsons, Kansas, Miss Wales, of Missouri library commission, and Miss Fordyce, of Sedalia. It was suggested that books of U. S. history and American biography, together with local history, are valuable as a foundation for farm reading; but more necessary are books treating of soils and animal and plant life. Miss Ahern told of how and where books on the agricultural topics might be obtained, and urged that books be provid-

ed for the farmers' wives and the farm boys and girls.

The best books of the year was a topic that brought out interesting discussion, led by Mary C. Lee, of Manhattan, Kansas. Informal discussion of the principles of book selection aroused much interest.

Lida Romig, of Abilene, Kansas, presented the topic of how to arouse the interest of children in the reading of good books. Personal work in explaining books to boys and girls was suggested as a good method.

The opening address Thursday afternoon was by another guest of the two associations, Miss Maud van Buren, librarian for several years and now lecturer for the American civic association. She spoke on "The observations of an itinerant librarian" and we all hoped we did not belong to three of the kinds she talked about, the phlegmatic, the indifferent or the complacent librarian. Her address urged all to even greater and larger usefulness in librarianship.

Dr Jay William Hudson, professor of Philosophy of the University of Missouri and a guest of the association gave a most inspiring address on "American ideals in fiction." Beside the 100 or more librarians, this address was attended by the entire teaching staff of the St. Joseph public schools.

Dr Hudson praised the American novel and said that it was the original source for opinions about the life and tastes of the American people. Democracy must be the keynote of the real American novel and it is found in those of many American authors and particularly in those of William Dean Howells. Mr Hudson's original ideas and his fluent use of English makes him a most interesting and entertaining lecturer and the applause following his address voiced the appreciation of his audience.

The evening was spent at the Country club and the St. Joseph Library board entertained and regaled their guests most bountifully. The club house, with its beautiful oak paneling and beaming, its colonial dining room, and shrubs and flowers sent by the City Park board was

a most festive scene. Rabbi Louis Bernstein was a witty and clever toastmaster, the responses were made by Miss Ahern, Dr Bostwick and Dr Hudson and the serious and the comic were mixed in just the right proportion.

Friday morning following the business sessions came the "Assistants' hour" and Miss Dinsmoor, on "Trials and tribulations of an assistant," Miss Wessenborn, St. Louis, on "What an assistant expects of a librarian," and Miss Brown, St. Joseph, on "Just suppose," were highly appreciated. Various librarians were called upon to respond to the papers.

The joint meeting closed most appropriately with Mr Wright's personal talk about "Eugene Field, who made St. Joseph famous."

A minute concerning the death of Dr Reuben Gold Thwaites was adopted.

After reciting the work and honorable career of Dr Thwaites, the minute closed as follows:

Testimonies to his varied achievements are impressive and the Missouri library association wishes to add its own. To the memory of his nation-wide and inestimable value we would add our humble and appreciative tribute.

All who attended this joint-meeting of the Kansas and Missouri library associations agreed that it was one of the very best ever held. St. Joseph people showed their interest by attending many of the sessions. Rabbi Louis Bernstein, Mayor Charles Pfeiffer, Superintendent J. A. Whiteford, and others attended every meeting.

FLORENCE WHITTIER.
W. H. KERR.

Sunday School Libraries in Alabama

The Alabama Sunday School Association has established a state library of the best books on modern Sunday school work. A library of 60 volumes, not counting duplicates, has already been circulated, and the list will be increased from time to time. Any book in the library is at the service of any Sunday school worker of any denomination in Alabama. There is no charge for the use of the books, the object being to

assist the Sunday school workers of the state. A library department of the association has been formed, with regular officers and committees to select the various classes of books, as well as to take care of the work of sending them out as wanted.

Midwinter Meetings in Chicago

The usual midwinter library meetings will be held in Chicago, Wednesday, December 31, to Friday, January 2. Headquarters will be at the Hotel La Salle, where special reduced rates have been granted by the management. Meetings will be held in the rooms of the hotel and in the rooms of the Chicago public library. Reservations stating time of arrival should be made with the management of the Hotel La Salle.

The League of library commissions will meet at the Hotel La Salle on Wednesday and Thursday and the Round table of library schools on Friday, January 2.

Illinois Library Association Meeting announcement

The meeting of the Illinois library association for 1913 will be held in Chicago, beginning December 30. Headquarters will be at the LaSalle hotel, and the rates will be the same as for the other library meetings that week. The sessions will be held at the hotel also, and will open on Tuesday afternoon, December 30. It is planned to have a reference section, a trustees' meeting, a book symposium, and a large representation from down state libraries, with discussions of commission government as related to libraries; municipal and legislative reference libraries, with special reference to the city reference libraries recently established and the new legislative reference library at Springfield.

A more definite announcement will be mailed to the members of the association as soon as the program is in definite form.

F. K. W. DRURY,
Secretary.

Library Meetings

Chicago.—The November meeting of the Chicago library club was held November, 13, at the Chicago public library.

The president announced that the directors of the Art institute as in years heretofore, would issue special tickets to librarians for free admission to all the exhibitions held at the Art institute, these tickets to be had upon application to Miss Van Horne, librarian of the Ryerson library, Art institute.

The president further announced, that the National council of teachers of English would hold a library session at the Auditorium on Friday afternoon, Nov. 28, the subject being "Essentials in the correlation of library, teacher and student."

In an appropriate introduction of Samuel H. Ranck, the speaker of the evening, the president, incidentally included in his remarks, the information that there are 27 counties in Illinois which have no libraries within their boundaries.

Mr Ranck, librarian of the Grand Rapids public library, gave a very interesting illustrated lecture on "The problem of public library service for our rural population, more than half the people of the United States."

He claimed from statistical data, that 46 million people live in rural districts and that this population is worse off religiously, educationally, economically and socially than a century ago; that the average health of the baby of the city is better than in rural districts, likewise the child has a better chance educationally, socially and economically in the city. Unsatisfactory educational facilities drive people to the city and there are a million and a half people without library service in Michigan.

Mr Ranck then proceeded, by the aid of lantern slides, to give a fair idea of the rural conditions, in the United States, how in Connecticut the delivery automobile meets the library problem by delivering books from house to

house and how Washington County, Maryland, too, had its book wagon.

The Cincinnati public library is the library of the people of Hamilton County, with notion stores, plumber shops, drug stores, etc., as distributing points. Indiana has her township libraries and Monona County, Iowa, her county library as a unit is very successful.

Multnomah County of Oregon has a successful system, where the circulation was four volumes per capita of the rural population.

Then coming back to Grand Rapids, Mr Ranck sketched briefly and clearly the work of the Grand Rapids public library,—its school work, its special libraries for crippled children, etc., endeavoring to bring to the people the books, the very books they want and need. The last picture was unique, as inasmuch as it was a picture of a grandstand filled 112,000 strong, it merely represented the 112,000 people of Grand Rapids and vicinity that are the yearly patrons of the library.

AGNES J. PETERSEN, Sec'y.

Iowa.—The Iowa City library club began the year 1913-1914 with a total membership of 21 from the public, university and State historical society libraries. The chief topic for this year's work will be the study of noted foreign libraries, talks on which will be given by people who are personally familiar with the various libraries. At the November meeting Mrs A. N. Currier gave a most interesting account of the Vatican library. Book reviews and discussions of library news and problems will also have places on the program.

The officers for the year are as follows:

President, Jessie Arms; vice-president, Grace Wormer; secretary and treasurer, Dorothy Dondore.

Iowa.—The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held in the auditorium of the Sioux City public library, October 14-16.

Mayor A. A. Smith gave the association a hearty, good-natured welcome.

The president of the library board at a subsequent session addressed the association in a manner which left no doubt as to his intelligent interest in Iowa libraries or of the pleasure of the library board in having the association as guests of the city. Johnson Brigham, State librarian, responded.

In the address of the president, Mrs C. C. Loomis spoke of the responsibility of trustees for the state's investment in libraries. Mrs Loomis, herself a trustee, has visited libraries in every part of the state and quite generally she has found members of library boards to be poorly informed on library matters. Throughout Iowa there are libraries representing investments from \$7,500 to \$100,000, and not one of these is supported in a way to produce the maximum returns on the investment. The responsibility rests not with librarians or even with city councils, but with trustees. The trusts devolving upon these officials should not be accepted without careful consideration of the full responsibilities and duties assumed. Primarily, the library problem is one which concerns the trustees and not until they accept their responsibilities, will the library make its proper returns to the state.

Tuesday evening, the visiting librarians were guests of the Sioux City women's clubs to hear an address by Dr E. A. Steiner on: "Tolstoy: The man and his message."

The most important part of a business meeting Wednesday morning consisted of the report of the Legislative committee. Iowa was particularly fortunate in the personnel of such a committee, every member being actively and genuinely interested in better libraries. The report which was submitted by Mr F. F. Dawley, a trustee of the Cedar Rapids public library, went beyond the usual reviewing of current legislation and included the most severe arraignment ever heard in the Iowa library association. It declared that what was practically the unanimous will of the last session of the legislature was set aside in the action of a small committee of the Senate and the

House which fixes the salaries of the employees of the Library commission and that one senator on this committee insisting on petty economy and "imbued with foreign and un-American ideas against the employment of women in public affairs, had his way and prevented a decent recognition of the services of one of the most competent library workers in the United States." The report continued at length and will go far toward bringing about a reform which has been delayed altogether too long.

L. I. Reed, superintendent of city schools at Missouri Valley, read a paper on, "The public library and the rural school" telling of what has actually been done by one library. The address of Miss Ward of the State teachers' college on, "The Montessori method and the children's library" constituted a contribution to the program both unique and unusually interesting. Miss Ward believes that Dr Montessori's method should be applied to the children's room as well as to other means of child education and pointed out the practicability of this in her outline of the essentials of story telling. Her approach to the subject was from a view point out of the ordinary and exceedingly stimulating.

Elva L. Bascom was present throughout the meeting and helped very much with conferences and discussions. Her paper on "The library's attitude toward study clubs and reading courses" was a practical treatment of the subject, full of suggestions for work in the average library.

Rose O'Connor, children's librarian, Sioux City, gave a model program from Lohengrin, illustrating it with Victrola records. W. R. Orchard, a new member of the Library commission, was introduced to the association through his address on "How to bring the community and its books together." His address outlined a constructive program for rural extension through the establishment of township libraries. Mr Orchard further urges a modification of the federal postal laws to permit carriers to distribute books at cost.

Wednesday evening, the Commercial club and the Library board were hosts at a reception given in the ball room of the Hotel Martin.

Thursday morning was taken up with book reviews. Free discussion followed each main paper and reviews coming later on the program had to be omitted. Reviews were as follows: Galsworthy, Miss Armstrong, of Council Bluffs; Jean-Christophe, Miss Tappert of Davenport; Books on the feminist movement, Emma Hagey; New books on sociology, Miss Arnold, of Dubuque. A question box gave opportunity for introducing many topics of local interest.

At the final business session the association voted to affiliate with the A. L. A. in accordance with the recent amendment to the constitution and elected to the Council, Lillian B. Arnold, the president-elect, with Mrs. C. C. Loomis as alternate. In recognition of special service to Iowa libraries, the association elected to honorary membership, Miss Alice Tyler, Western Reserve; Miss Margaret Brown, Los Angeles; Mr. M. H. Douglas, University of Oregon; Mr. M. G. Wyer, University of Nebraska.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Lillian B. Arnold, Dubuque; vice pres. J. B. Weaver Jr., Des Moines; first vice-president, J. B. Weaver Jr., Des Moines; second vice-president, Helen McRaith, Iowa City; secretary, Anna Kimberly, Marshalltown; treasurer, Vina Clark, Ames; registrar, Anna M. Tarr, Clinton; Honorary president, W. P. Payne, Nevada.

Kansas.—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Kansas library association was held at St. Joseph, Missouri, October 22-23, a joint meeting with Missouri having been arranged. The delightful hospitality of St. Joseph's public library and citizens, and the attractive program, are reported elsewhere.

Thirty-nine members of the Kansas association were present. The committee in charge of the attempt to obtain an enlargement of the powers and support of the Kansas Traveling libraries commission, so as to provide a state library organizer, reported the failure of its ef-

fort. There seemed to be no chance for such legislation from the 1913 legislature. The press committee (Messrs Kerr, King, and Smith) was continued, and individual members of the association were charged to do faithful personal work for the project. The secretary read encouraging letters from many Kansas libraries, telling of new buildings, enlarged appropriations, better salaries, and increasing public interest and use.

Affiliation with the American library association, and acceptance of the privilege of membership in the A. L. A. council was voted. The incoming president and vice-president were named as delegate and alternate. The report of the resolutions committee, heartily adopted, records the thanks of the Kansas library association to the officers and members of the Missouri library association for the many courtesies shown, the appreciation of St. Joseph hospitality, and the obligation to Mr. Rush and his staff for generous and ever-to-be-remembered entertainment. "The daintiest flowers that grow can creep across state lines, and for every blossom of Missouri's friendship we give back the Kansas sunflower of good will."

The officers elected for 1914 are as follows: President, J. L. King, State library, Topeka; first vice-president, Mrs. Sara Judd Greenman, Kansas City public library; second vice-president, Mary C. Lee, Manhattan free public library; third vice-president, Garnette Heaton, Junction City public library; secretary, Clara Francis, State historical library, Topeka; treasurer, Irving R. Bundy, Public library, Leavenworth; member at large, A. B. Smith, Kansas Agricultural college, Manhattan.

The Kansas association as a body accompanied Mr. King, the president-elect, to the business session of the Missouri association for the reading of the resolutions and the presentation of the Kansas invitation to Missouri to meet with Kansas at Topeka in October, 1914, at the opening of the new State Historical building.

Kentucky.—The seventh annual meeting of the Kentucky library association

was held in Covington, October 30-31, 1913. The first session was called to order by Miss Dillard, president. The address of welcome was given by Mayor Philipps of Covington.

The first paper of the afternoon was given by Lillie Southgate, Covington, on "What the teacher expects from the public library."

This was followed by Mrs Henry Englander, Cincinnati, with "What the library expects from the teacher." Miss Bell, Louisville, spoke on "The children's room: what and how it is best to do." There was a discussion of story hour, fines, etc.

Closing the session Mr Collins gave an exhibition of lantern slides belonging to the Covington library. These were of great interest, being Kentucky slides. The library circulates many slides during the year.

The second session was called to order in the lecture room of the library, Mr H. B. Mackoy presiding. The paper of the evening was read by James Albert Green, Cincinnati, "Relation of the public library to the community." This was followed by John Wilson Townsend, Lexington, on "My acquaintance with some Kentucky authors."

The third session was held Friday morning. Mrs Settle read a paper, "Why and how we advertise our library," followed by a discussion on library advertising. The afternoon was spent in a visit to the Rookwood pottery and the Cincinnati art museum.

Officers for 1913-1914: President, Mrs Anne M. Spears, Covington; first vice-president, Miss Corwin, Berea; second vice-president, Miss Lucas, Paris; secretary, Mrs N. B. Dohrmann, Covington; treasurer, Mrs George T. Settle, Louisville. Member-at-large, Mrs Joseph Rupert, Frankfort.

Massachusetts.—One of the most interesting and successful meetings of the Bay Path library club was held October 2 in the Beaman memorial library in West Boylston. The attendance was especially good from the eastern section of the district. The places represented besides West Boylston were Auburn,

Barre, Beverly, Boston, Boylston, Brimfield, Clinton, Holden, Hudson, Lancaster, Millbury, Oxford, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Templeton, Webster and Worcester.

The cheerful and finely-lighted auditorium, Rice hall, was a fit setting for the discussion of present-day live questions concerning the ways of making libraries of greatest service to their communities. The presence of the giver of the memorial was most gratifying.

Mrs Clara A. Fuller of Oxford, presided over the meeting. A welcome was given by Albert W. Hinds of the Board of trustees.

After a short business session, Miss Campbell, secretary of the Massachusetts free public library commission in the department of work with foreigners, gave a talk upon "The work libraries can do and are doing for foreign-born in Massachusetts." Miss Campbell feels that parents can be best reached through the children. If it is desired to have the mothers come to the library, the result may not be reached by simply sending out invitations, but by drawing the mothers through an interest in the activities of the children. Miss Campbell had tried the experiment of exhibitions and performances, in which the mothers were eager to see their children take part.

The speaker held that it makes for better citizenship to maintain an interest and pride in the national background. A most impressive library exhibition consisted of family treasures of needlework and fine handiwork which were brought with great pride by the children from homes of different nationalities. It is not wise to encourage the loss of the use by the children of the native language. Every thing should be done to keep the integrity of the home. For adult foreigners the libraries should furnish books in their native languages.

After a discussion of the subject by librarians and teachers, the closing talk of the morning was given by Miss Tarbell of Brimfield, who gave a report of the Massachusetts Agricultural college summer conference for community ad-

vance. Miss Tarbell showed that the purpose of the college is not merely to give instruction in the technical processes of agriculture, but includes the upbuilding of rural life. She also gave an account of the week's conference of the different agencies converging in community interests, among which was the rural library as touching the work of all of them.

The first talk of the afternoon session was by Albert W. Hinds, concerning "Bits of local history." He spoke especially of two remarkable and distinguished citizens of the town, David Lee Child and Robert Bailey Thomas.

To Mr Child, West Boylston owes the beginnings of its library, as on his death in 1874 he left a sum of money for founding a library, and his widow, Lydia (Francis) Child, the noted author, gave 170 volumes from her own library.

Mr Child presided in Boston over the first anti-slavery meeting held in this country, making the first speech in behalf of the cause.

Robert B. Thomas was the founder of the Old Farmer's Almanac, the first number of which was published in 1793, the year of his death. The local library has a complete file of the almanacs.

The next speaker was Miss Loring of *Pride's Crossing*, whose subject was, "Some observations in library work." Miss Loring is a trustee of the Beverly public library and she spoke from the standpoint of a trustee. She said in part:

The first obligation of the trustees is to administer the property of the town, and the second is to make it desirable to the people. The library is a true democracy; it is in the interests of no creed, age, color, nationality, political party, wealth or degree of intelligence. Then the governing board can be removed by the vote of the people. But as in railroads and large business more and more responsibility is placed on directors, so more criticism is made of trustees and less of librarians. The aim in forming a library is to give everyone something by which he can find out whatever he wants to know, and beyond this to educate the people in literature, science, history, philosophy and art, and finally through fiction to furnish entertainment and recreation. In making the library fit the wants and needs of the public such a general policy as that of the merchant Stearns is applicable. Mr Stearns said: "Have the goods that are wanted, but be equally alert

to keep out of stock goods that are not wanted. Every buyer of goods to make wise selection should spend a part of his time in the department for which he buys, ready to wait on customers and so know personally what they want." So those who select books for a library should make direct observation in some way of the choice of books by the public. Yet the library has also the power to create the taste for certain books by presenting them, and so it must anticipate needs and wants.

The Beverly library has a successful system of distributing to all its patrons slips for application for books to be purchased, and puts these books on its shelves as far as they are desirable accessories.

The contents of the library should be advertised, and lists of new books may be put in the local paper. The library should be made attractive in every way. There should be open shelves and a constant display of desirable books. The librarian should be a good guesser and able to interpret the wishes of the patrons.

Charles K. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, then gave interesting observations spiced with humor concerning "A library pilgrimage" in Europe last summer. Mr Bolton said that in Europe there is no democratic library movement like that in the United States. The libraries of some state capitals like The Hague are especially liberal, and Holland as a country is in advance.

A discussion of recent books based on the last printed list of books recommended for small libraries by the Women's education association of Boston followed. The discussion was opened and conducted by Mrs Robert K. Shaw, of Worcester, and Miss Underhill and Miss Cook of the children's department of the Worcester library spoke on desirable books for children and young people, after which the discussion was general.

An invitation to hold the June meeting of the club in North Brookfield was accepted and a vote of thanks was given for the generous hospitality of West Boylston.

Missouri.—The fourteenth annual meeting was held at St. Joseph, October 22-

24, 1913. By invitation of President Rush and the Executive Board, this meeting was held jointly with the Kansas library association.

The first session of the Missouri library association was called to order by President Charles E. Rush at 9.30 a. m., Thursday, October 23.

Report of the treasurer showed \$71.76 in the treasury.

Miss Wagner, of the Committee on Missouri bibliography, reported no progress because of lack of funds and suggested that the committee be discharged, which was done.

Mr Severance reported that each library and library board had been circularized three times asking that the expenses of delegates to the association be paid, and that a few attending this meeting were there as a result of the circular letters.

Mr Blackwelder, the chairman of the committee to gather data about the desire of the various libraries in the state to become institutional members of the Missouri library association at an annual fee of \$2, reported the following libraries desirous of becoming members: Carthage, Hannibal, Joplin, Kansas City, Missouri Library Commission, Moberly, Mound City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, University of Missouri at Columbia.

The following by-law was voted a part of the constitution:

There shall be an institutional membership, carrying an annual fee of \$2, the proceeds to be deposited in a special fund and used only by vote of the full Executive Board for printing library aids or for other purposes helpful to libraries in the state. All libraries of any kind including school libraries in the state of Missouri are eligible for this membership.

A second business session was called to order by President Rush on Friday morning.

A motion by Dr Bostwick was carried that the secretary be requested to acknowledge the letter from the American Library Association committee about exhibiting in Leipzig and to notify the committee that the matter has been referred to libraries constituting this association.

A motion by Mr Severance carried

that the Missouri library association qualify for institutional membership.

The association is to be represented in the American library association council by its president and an alternate elected by the association.

Mr Blackwelder and Mr Severance were elected first and second alternates.

District meetings in Missouri were suggested as a field for good work by the president. The discussion by librarians from the smaller libraries showed much interest in the president's suggestion. Miss Wales said that the state could hold district meetings, using St. Louis public library, St. Joseph and Kansas City public libraries, and Joplin public library as places of meeting.

The suggested plans were left to the new Executive Board, with power to act. Miss Wales then reported on the work of the Missouri library commission, a publication of a monthly bulletin, a decided expansion in work with clubs, and all this progress in spite of the fact that the commission's headquarters at Jefferson City have been moved three times.

Mr Severance spoke of the increased activities of the Extension department of the University of Missouri.

Mr Whiteford, the Superintendent of schools at St. Joseph, suggested that the School library commission appointed by the state and without funds, be discontinued. He also wished to be able to state at the next meeting of the Missouri State teachers' association in St. Louis that it was deemed advisable by the Missouri library association that it be discontinued. The discussion disclosed that it performed no duties and was only causing confusion to those actually in need of aid from the Missouri library commission. A motion carried that Dr Bostwick represent the Missouri library association at the Missouri State teachers' association in St. Louis and voice the agreement of this association with Mr Whiteford's suggestions.

At this point Mr King of the Kansas library association read their resolutions, appreciative of the pleasure and hospitality received at the St. Joseph meeting. He most cordially invited the Missouri

library association to meet with the Kansas library association at Topeka, Kansas, in the fall of 1914.

Resolutions of appreciation of the value of the joint meeting, of the hospitality of St. Joseph and all concerned in the success and pleasure of the meeting were adopted.

The following officers were elected: President, Florence Whittier; first vice-president, Mrs Harriet P. Sawyer; second vice-president, Eleanor Hawkins; secretary, Jesse Cunningham; treasurer, Alice Gladden.

North Dakota.—The North Dakota library meeting held in Minot, October 31–November 1, 1913, will become a noteworthy one in the history of the association, first because it has assured official recognition of library development in the western part of the state, and second, because of the presence there of the highest executive of the state, Governor L. B. Hanna.

Most of the meetings were held in Minot's new public library, of which the citizens of Minot have reason to be proud.

The meeting opened on Friday morning with an address by President R. A. Nestos on "The legal status of the library," in which was pointed out the necessity of learning the legal obligations to the city in order to know what a library can accomplish in the way of progress. "The great problem," said Mr Nestos, "is to prevail upon city commissions or councils to provide adequate support for the library. The library must not be made a local football. The library board should be given the same power as park boards or any of the boards of the city." "What local organizations have a right to expect from the library" was ably presented by I. A. Acker of the Legislative reference library, Bismarck. Mrs Minnie C. Budlong, secretary of the Public library commission, then gave some very profitable and interesting remarks on "The mission of the traveling library."

In the afternoon, A. G. Crane, president of the Minot normal school, addressed the association and a consider-

able number of normal students, on "How to reach adolescent students." This proved entertaining and instructive, as did also the discussion which followed, conducted by Miss Cook of the Valley City public library.

S. Blanche Hedrick of the State university library followed with a splendid paper on "Scientific management." Miss Durand, librarian of the Grand Forks public library, led in the discussion.

The remainder of the afternoon session was devoted to a discussion on "How to reach the foreign born," led by Bessie R. Baldwin of Williston. Interesting hints and suggestions came from various parts of the state.

In the evening a most elaborate banquet was held in the Public library auditorium, the hosts and hostesses being the Minot Library Board. Plates were laid for about 40 and the decorations were in keeping with Halloween evening. After a sumptuous repast had been served there were toasts by Governor Hanna, Mrs Budlong and Judge Amidon. The association then adjourned to the Methodist church, where an address was given by Governor Hanna. The governor dwelt on the importance of good books in the homes throughout the state, and especially in the rural communities, where plenty of reading material shortened the long winter months and made much happier the lives of the North Dakota farmers. He expressed the hope that the state would in the future have more money to spend for books and more could be appropriated for the library commission work. He advocated saving money in other ways, as for instance having fewer elections, and electing for longer terms. Much money was practically wasted in such ways that might be used for the more vital problem of securing plenty of literature and good reading for the North Dakota people.

"North Dakota is not only a good place to make money, but is also a good place to live and in the future her sons and daughters will bring her fame in the field of literature. James Foley,

the North Dakota poet, has already blazed the pioneer trail."

Prof Vernon Squires, head of the English department at the State university, then gave a most inspiring lecture on "Browning and the Ring and the book."

On Saturday morning, after the business the association listened to a fine address on "The State university library and state educational coöperation," by Prof Clarence W. Summer, librarian of the State university library. Round table discussions followed. "Public libraries," conducted by Alice M. Paddock of Jamestown, and "College libraries," by Lillian Mirick of Wahpeton.

After an enjoyable auto ride and a luncheon by the women's clubs of Minot, J. H. Lewis of Minot addressed the association on "What and how to read." The sessions closed with a most interesting address by Dr Max Batt of the Fargo agricultural college, on "The social center movement in the school and libraries throughout the town and country."

The officers of the association for the coming year are:

President, R. A. Nestos, Minot; vice-president, Lillian Mirick, Wahpeton; secretary-treasurer, Josephine R. Hargrave, Dickinson; member of executive board, S. Blanche Hedrick, Grand Forks.

The association voted to meet in Wahpeton in 1914.

ALICE M. PADDOCK.

Ohio.—The Ohio library association held its nineteenth annual meeting at Oberlin, October 7-10, with over 200 library workers in attendance.

President Henry Churchill King gave a cordial address of welcome, to which Miss Downey, president of the association, responded, paying high tribute to Prof Root as host.

Louisa K. Fast, chairman of the Women's clubs committee, in her report on what the clubs are doing to further library interests in the state, referred to the important investigation by a committee of the Ohio federation of women's clubs, of reading facilities in state and county institutions, including

jails, county infirmaries and children's homes.

Mrs Howard Huckins, president of Ohio federation of women's clubs, gave a splendid address upon the work of the federation in which libraries may coöperate placing special emphasis upon the scope and character of club programs.

A delightful reception by the federated women's clubs of Oberlin and the Daughters of the American Revolution followed.

The Wednesday morning session opened with the report of the library organizer, Ella Louise Smith. She spoke of the promise to Paulding, which will be Mr Carnegie's first gift for a county library in the state; of the failure of the commissioners in Tuscaroras county to meet Mr Carnegie's offer with the required levy; of possibilities for township library extension; of things to be learned from Adams county; and of the views of the president of Muskingum college as to what may be done there.

A round table on administrative problems was led by Miss Doren. Professor Root, who has been successful in securing a very complete collection of serials for Oberlin at a comparatively slight cost, told of the practical workings of a clearing house for books and periodicals, on an exchange basis.

He now has two buildings filled to overflowing with duplicates. In the matter of exchange of duplicates, exact values are not insisted upon, nor is the exchanging library required to return the favor until a convenient season when it has a surplus of duplicates at its command. The records of the collection are simple; the various items being stored in the order of accession and listed alphabetically. The accession number added to the record locates each item. Miss Brown, of Conneaut, and Mrs Carey, of Salem, also reported success in collecting sets of periodicals for their libraries.

"The value of the printed annual report," was next discussed. All agreed that the annual report was the librarian's opportunity to make a comprehensive statement of the library's work and

needs. The printed report, even at some cost (although this item might be reduced by judiciously utilizing the newspaper report as a reprint), is a permanent official document of value for reference and exchange and for the information of the public.

Theresa Walter, supervisor of book repair of the Dayton library, gave a practical and interesting paper upon "Book repair problems of the flood."

A very comprehensive and enlightening account of "Ohio libraries in the flood," prepared by Linda M. Clatworthy, who as librarian carried the work of the Dayton library through this trying period, was read by Matilda M. Light of Dayton. At the close, Bessie Sargent Smith moved the passage of resolutions extending sympathy and commendation for the heroic work of Miss Clatworthy and her staff and other librarians whose libraries had suffered in the flood.

The use of exhibits and lecture rooms was discussed by Louise A. Hawley, who showed how her library had in a short time become the most social center of Milan township, through this means.

John J. Pugh, at a later session, continued this subject, telling of the remarkable use made of the exhibit and lecture rooms of the Columbus public library.

The cordial welcome to Miss Alice S. Tyler upon her return to a former field of work in the new role of director of the Western Reserve library school was followed by a gracious response from her, in which she expressed her pleasure at again being in Ohio and her deep sense of the opportunities open before the school to help the onward movement of library development. The students of the library school were present with Miss Tyler.

The Wednesday afternoon session opened with an address by S. Gale Lowrie, director of the Ohio State legislative reference bureau, on "The Function of the Legislative reference bureau." He sketched the history and development of the work in other states and defined and described three activities of the bureau as follows: Securing avail-

able reference material upon topics of current discussion; 2, to provide the investigator with the services of an expert; 3, bill drafting. He also outlined a program for state help to municipal reference work and summed up the function of legislative and municipal reference work as the channel for bringing to the worker on public questions every facility and opportunity which will enable him to perform his duties in an enlightened manner.

Horace L. Brittain, director of the Ohio School Survey commission, spoke on library coöperation with schools and gave the results of the questionnaire sent to the libraries of the state.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were then read and accepted, also those of the committees on necrology and changes and on inter-relation of libraries.

On Wednesday evening the faculty of the Oberlin conservatory of music so well and favorably known, delighted the members of the association with an excellent program arranged in their honor.

On Thursday morning, by special request, the meeting of the Trustees section was made a general session. Mr W. T. Porter, chairman of the section, presented the following topics, which were open to general discussion: Trustees' duty as to legislation; Should there be a library pension law in the state? Should there be a library civil service law? These topics, so vitally interesting to all present, provoked a spirited discussion.

Julia Merrill gave the report of the Library Extension committee and led a round-table on county extension. She presented the county work of the Cincinnati library, graphically illustrating from a starred map.

Anna L. Holding spoke of the work done by the Brumback library of Van Wert county and showed the exhibits which had been used at the state and county fairs.

Miss Mercer of Mansfield and Miss E. Holzaepel of Sandusky told of the way the county levies were obtained for their libraries in Richland and Erie counties, respectively.

The chair appointed Matilda Light, S. J. Brandenburg and Mary E. Wilder a committee to revise the committees of the association.

By invitation the association then attended the noon chapel service of Oberlin college, an impressive service led by President King. Seats had been reserved for the members of the association in the choir loft, from which place they obtained an inspiring view of the large audience room filled with students.

College section

The first meeting of the College section of the O. L. A. was held Thursday morning, with the chairman, C. W. Reeder, presiding.

Minnie M. Orr presented a paper on "Ohio college libraries and the flood." She showed that the Ohio college libraries did not suffer any damage during the 1913 flood. The fact was emphasized that the founders of Ohio colleges looked after the locations, and in many cases picked out high elevations and bluffs for the various buildings. The only inconvenience suffered by the colleges was from the lack of lighting, heating and water facilities for a short time. In many cases classes were disarranged and schedules demoralized. Deeds of heroism and relief work of all kinds were reported from many institutions.

Katherine Shock read a paper on "Document news." The points covered included the following: Permanency insured for existing depository libraries, elimination of serial publications from the serial set, change in method of publication by the U. S. department of agriculture, resolutions adopted at the A. L. A. document round-table 1913, and the distribution of Ohio documents.

The discussion centered around the chaotic condition of Ohio documents and the inability of libraries to secure them. A round-table discussion followed: "How can the College section be of use to the small college libraries?" As a result, two propositions were adopted: First, that the small college libraries should be visited by a representative of the large libraries to see what needs are

present and what advice and help can be rendered; second, that Oberlin college library should send to every college library in the state a list of periodicals needed to complete its Poole sets, with a view to benefiting the smaller college libraries by exchange relations. In the first case, each large library will be assigned two, three or four smaller college libraries for visits. Reports on these visits are to be rendered at next year's meeting. In the second case, if it is seen that direct benefits accrue by the exchange of Poole periodicals, next year another field will be attempted for a general exchange.

The second session of the College section was held on Friday morning, October 10. Rena B. Findley read a paper on "Akron's proposed municipal university." In the library the greatest change will be the organization of a municipal reference department.

The next topic on the program was the "Extension of parcels post to books and inter-library loans." Mr Root, librarian of Oberlin college, showed the effect parcels post would have on a library in the shipment of a four-pound book to each of the different zones. Up to a certain distance parcels post would be cheaper than third-class mail; beyond certain distances it would be more costly. Mr Root advocated a "library post law," by which books could be sent at one cent (1c) per pound, or a law by which a library could elect to send books by parcels post or third-class mail, selecting the cheaper method.

Maud Jeffrey's paper told of securing 76 books through inter-library loan for a doctor's thesis. The express cost was \$15, or an average of .19 per volume. By parcels post the cost would have been \$7.57, or .10 per volume. Most of these volumes were borrowed from the libraries of the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin.

George F. Strong presented similar results, but with a saving of only .98 on a year's work in securing inter-library loans. He brought out the fact that his loans were secured mainly from Harvard and Yale.

S. J. Brandenburg reported inter-library loans from his university with about the same results as outlined above.

In the discussion which followed it was voted to go on record as favoring the extension of parcels post to books. The chairman of the section was authorized to draw up a statement to such effect and transmit it to all Ohio college libraries. These libraries are to be asked to write to the postmaster-general of the United States and to the congressman from their district, asking support for such an extension in the parcels post classification.

An election of officers followed. S. J. Brandenburg was elected chairman and Minnie M. Orr, Marietta college, secretary.

Thursday afternoon, through the courtesy of the citizens of Oberlin, the association enjoyed an automobile ride.

The evening session opened with an address by the secretary of the American library association, George B. Utley, who gave an inspiring and instructive address on "The American library association and its work." Prof Edward Dickinson, one of the leading authorities in the country on the history of music, followed with a lecture on "The literature of music." This was most helpful and the valuable annotated list of books presented to each one was much appreciated.

The Friday morning session opened with a business meeting. Frances Cleveland and Willa D. Cotton were appointed auditing committee. A communication from the secretary of the American library association was read regarding the amendment to the constitution of the A. L. A., which provides for state association representation in the A. L. A. council, upon the payment of \$5 dues for a membership of 50 or less and an additional rate of ten cents per member for memberships exceeding 50. Miss Doren moved that O. L. A. avail itself of this opportunity. Prof Root seconded the motion, which was adopted. It was further voted that the president represent the association in the A. L. A. council.

The report of the Resolutions committee, expressing appreciation of the hospitality of Oberlin college and Prof Root especially, and expressing sympathy with the libraries which suffered loss by the 1913 floods, was accepted with a rising vote.

A resolution was introduced by Miss Doren directing the incoming executive board to take under consideration the advisability of making an accurate and scientific survey of library conditions in Ohio, the survey to include, if necessary, the employment of expert assistance. The resolution was adopted.

Sophie M. Collman read a paper on "Books for the young people's section."* She reviewed three lists of books which might be used in the guidance of boys' and girls' reading after leaving the children's room.

Marie T. Brown concluded the session with a general discussion of Township extension work.

The following officers were elected:

President, Mary E. Downey, first vice president, Willis F. Sewall; second vice president, Electra C. Doren; third vice president, Herbert S. Hirshberg; secretary, Minnie Farren; treasurer, Blanche C. Roberts.

To offset disappointment over the inability of Governor Cox to be in attendance there was the presence of Mr Utley, secretary of the American library association, which was felt as a distinct inspiration and gave a real impetus to the meeting, not only in the messages of his graceful address of the evening, but in the business session where the matter of affiliation of the Ohio library association with the broader work of the national organization, was effected.

In the course of his remarks, he paid a well deserved tribute to the work and ability of Miss Downey in developing the library extension and commission activities of Ohio. He said that he felt he expressed the desire and the belief of those present that the day was not far distant when Miss Downey would be restored to the leadership in the field

*Miss Collman's paper is given in another place in this number of **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**.

where she was still so much needed. This the association applauded to the echo.

MATILDA M. LIGHT.

Pennsylvania.—The first meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the season of 1913-1914 was held at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia, on Monday evening, November 10, 1913, with an attendance of 115.

On account of the illness of the president, Dr Cyrus Adler, Dr John Thomson, president-emeritus, occupied the chair. Attention was called to the fact that this is the twenty-first year of the club, which has a membership of 170. After the election of 12 new members, Dr Thomson introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr Robert Ellis Thompson, president of the Central high school, Philadelphia.

Dr Thompson gave a very interesting talk on "How I became a booklover," dating from the time he was a boy in Ireland, where his opportunities for securing books were few and far between, his native Ulster not being exactly literary; but he realized even at the age of eight that books were "one of the necessities of life." Dr Thompson said that "the want of public libraries in those days tended to make booklovers too much like book collectors" and that "long experience has shown me that we buy far too many books." He said "miscellaneous reading is good for people" and "the friendship of books is one of the currents in life which nobody can afford to miss."

At the close of the address an opportunity to meet Dr Thompson was much appreciated. The usual reception was held in the upper rooms, at which time many had the pleasure of greeting the members of this year's Drexel library class.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,
Secretary.

Pennsylvania.—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Keystone State library association, was held at Erie, Pa., October 9-10, with 85 in attendance. Miss Elisa Willard, presided.

The address of welcome was given by Mrs J. F. Downing, vice-president of the

Erie board of library trustees, and inspired all with the spirit of cordiality and enjoyment.

The papers at the first session, October 9, were presented by Chas. Lose on "Outdoor books;" Chas. Wright on "Books of travel;" Miss McIlvaine on "Irish literature;" and Mr McClelland on "Technical books" they could not have been excelled in quality, and were thoroughly enjoyed.

On Thursday evening, a fine dramatic reading by Mrs Bertha Kunz-Baker, was rendered in "The piper."

Friday morning session opened with the "roll call" on "What is the most interesting thing your library has done this year" and was responded to by a minute talk by 40 different librarians. This proved of great aid in conveying in a concise way, the best work of the year of each library.

The session closed by a round-table conducted by Miss McDonald of Harrisburg. The "story hour and how to manage it" was well handled by Miss Betterly of Wilkesbarre. "Clubs for boys and girls" by Miss Engle of Philadelphia, brought out most forcefully, the need of such clubs, and the determination to install them. "Lectures and night classes" was well given by Miss Green.

"What some of us are doing along side lines" by Miss Roberts of Pottsville was most helpful as it dealt with the problem of the small boy who runs the streets. To circumvent this habit, get them interested in Indian stories and to finally get them to come in the library and listen to well told stories.

"Different ways for advertising" by Miss Berkie of Johnstown, was filled with good thoughts. The newspaper was conceded to be the best medium. Mr Bliss of the Library commission, gave a most interesting resumé of the work of the traveling libraries. He said that 275 places are supplied, that otherwise would be cut off from the use of books.

Friday afternoon session was opened by T. L. Montgomery, State librarian, giving a most complete survey of the "Libraries of Pennsylvania," closing with the statement that there is no need

for discouragement at the outlook in Pennsylvania. "The record of 139 free libraries established within 25 years will stand no matter whatever the future."

Mrs Samuel Semple, President of the Federation of Women's clubs, gave a delightful talk on "What woman's clubs have done for libraries," showing the great value of co-operation.

The Educational session conducted by Mr Frank Lewis followed. Mr Green of the Meadville theological school, opened with a most interesting talk on how public and theological libraries could work together. Miss True of the Clarion State normal school, told of the effort being made to raise the standard of the library and to bring it before the schools. Miss Wilson of the State normal school of Edinboro, which is the second oldest in the state, told of the work carried on with the students, showing that the library is an important part of the school.

The President appointed the committees as follows: Library legislation—Mr Earhart, Mr Marx, and Mr Woodberry; Committee on *Reader's Guide*—Mr Thomson, Miss Poland, and Mr Carr.

The following officers were elected: President, Frank Grant Lewis; vice-president, Mary C. Weis; secretary, Mary Champlin; treasurer, O. R. Thompson. Mrs JEAN A. HARD, Sec.

Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee library club has arranged for four meetings for the season of 1913-1914. The first of these occurred on Tuesday evening, October 21, in the children's room of the Milwaukee public library and was well attended. The meeting was preceded by a light luncheon after which short talks were given on the following topics: "Sidelights on the A. L. A. conference" by Sylvester J. Carter, reference librarian in the Milwaukee public library; "As we see the public" by Helen Apple, librarian of one of the city branches; "As the public sees us" by L. T. Gould of the State normal school faculty; and "What the library means to me" by Mrs F. E. Dewey, a prominent club woman of the city. JOSEPHINE KULZICK, Sec.

Interesting Things in Print

The Public library of Salem, Mass., has issued a catalog of the French books on its shelves.

The A. L. A. Handbook for 1913 has been issued, giving the membership for the year, together with such general information concerning the members and officers of the association as the organization calls for.

An interesting circular albeit it is an advertisement, containing valuable information is the one recently issued by Cedric Chivers, president of the Chivers Bookbinding Co. of Brooklyn, "The preservation of newspapers and other public documents."

A bibliography of books, articles, etc., relating to book-binding in America is in preparation by Wharton Miller, supervisor of the binding department in the Columbia University library. The bibliography aims to be especially useful to library binderies.

The Boston public library has issued an interesting circular containing a catalog of its pictures which may be circulated, as well as a considerable number of lantern slides. The rules and regulations under which the pictures and slides may be borrowed are also given.

The Indiana library association has issued a handbook, giving the history of the association and its related work since its founding in 1891, to the present. The history is full of interest to those who are acquainted with Indiana library matters, and is a record of good work well done. Typographically the handbook is one of the best specimens of the output of the Elm Tree Press which we have seen lately. A list of members of the association, constitution, and other facts relating to its work, are given.

Indexing, principles, rules and examples, by Martha T. Wheeler, second edition, revised, forms Library School pamphlet, No. 33 of the New York state library.

Miss Wheeler is a recognized authority on indexing, perhaps the foremost in-

dexer in library circles, and in this pamphlet there is given definite directions on preparing an index, comparisons between the various standard indexes, and suggestions as to which plan is more desirable under certain conditions.

By permission of Houghton Mifflin Company the following books will shortly be printed in New York point for the blind: John Fiske's "New France and New England," James O. Fagan's "Autobiography of an individualist," Dr Grenfell's "The adventure of life," and Henry Sydnor Harrison's "V. V.'s eyes."

The Bulletin of Iowa State institutions for July, 1913, contains the following articles of interest to librarians:

Some institutional library problems, by Julia A. Robinson;

The selection of books for prison libraries, by Florence R. Curtis;

The book and the nurse, by Miriam E. Carey.

Part I of Vol. 23 of the Proceedings of the American antiquarian society, at the meeting held in Boston, April 29, contains material that might be useful in the study of the history of North America, particularly of the United States.

"Wisdom of the North American Indians in speech and legend," is full of interesting material showing a new side to Indian character that is not often known by those who essay to speak for the Red Man.

"Some humours of American history" bring a side light on men who usually are exalted, showing them to have been on many occasions nearly human.

The letters of John Quincy Adams naturally deal with the period of his public life covered by the years 1811-1814, and edited by Charles Francis Adams, give the private views of Mr Adams in the manner in which a man writes to the intimate members of his family.

"The good book is an educational power of the first rank."—*Zentralblatt für Volksbildungswesen*.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

The ninth annual session of the school opened September 25 with an enrollment of 12 students, 10 of whom are from Georgia and 1 each from Alabama and Virginia.

On Saturday afternoon, October 18, the class was present at the opening of the Uncle Remus branch of the Carnegie library.

Ethel Pitcher, '10, formerly an assistant in the Cleveland public library, in September was appointed librarian of the Public library at Tyler, Texas.

Mary Browne, '09, has resigned her position in the New York public library and has returned to Atlanta to take charge of the Oakland City and Uncle Remus branches of the Carnegie library. These branches are open on different afternoons during the week. Miss Browne will tell an Uncle Remus story every Saturday afternoon at the Uncle Remus branch. At the opening of the library, October 18, she made a successful beginning, having a large audience which included the widow of the late Joel Chandler Harris, several of his children and grandchildren, the Executive Committee of the Memorial association, and many friends of the author both old and young.

Ethel Daniel, 1909, who had been an assistant in the Carnegie library of Atlanta, was married on June 18 to Frank Henry Theile of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The attendance of graduates at the A. L. A. conferences has been necessarily small heretofore owing to the distance of the meeting places from the South. At the Kaaterskill conference however, there were nine representatives of the school: Jessie Hopkins, '06, Ethel Everhart, '07, Ella May Thornton, '09, Mary Palmer, '09, T. D. Barker, '09, Dagmer Holmes, '10, Frances Newman, '12, Amelia Whitaker, '12, and Catherine Walker, '13. They made up a pleasant luncheon party.

DELIA FORACRE SNEED,
Principal.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Courses scheduled for the autumn term are:

Junior class: General library work, aids to library economy, book selection, classification, reference work, seminar for periodical review, story telling, illustrated book lists and picture work, library handwriting.

Senior class: Book selection, social conditions.

The Junior class matriculated on October 22 at the University of Pittsburgh for the course in Games and plays given by Miss Corbin of the Pittsburgh Playground association.

The Senior course in social conditions given this year by Miss Meloy, instructor in Sociology and economics in the Pennsylvania college for women, Pittsburgh.

During the last month the following special lectures have been given:

October 13: "Library work in Philadelphia," by Emma Robinson Engle, chief of children's department of the Free library of Philadelphia.

October 13: "Work with the blind," by Dr Robert C. Moon, secretary of the Pennsylvania Home teaching society, Philadelphia.

October 14 and 15: Three lectures: "What makes library work a success," "Experiences of an organizer," and "Point of contact," by Sarah B. Askew, organizer of the New Jersey public library commission, Trenton, N. J.

November 1: "Pennsylvania's free public library," by Anna A. MacDonald, consulting librarian of the Free library commission of Pennsylvania.

The class of 1915 has organized and has elected the following officers:

President, Jessie Gay Van Cleve; vice-president, Mary Hughes; secretary and treasurer, Mary Fuller.

Mary B. Crunden, '14, has been appointed children's librarian in the St. Louis public library, St. Louis, Missouri.

Mary B. Hunter, '12, has been appointed children's librarian in the University branch of the Seattle public library.

Louise P. Latimer, '12, is now in Eng-

land, en route for South Africa, where she will spend a year.

Mary Alice Forbes, '08, was recently married to R. G. MacDonald.

Elizabeth Nixon, '13, has been appointed children's librarian of the Pottsville public library, Pottsville, Pa.

Gladys Blake Spear, '12, was married to Rufus William Case.

Drexel institute

The class of 1914 has organized with the following officers: President, Helen L. Johnston; secretary, Agnes E. Ryan; treasurer, Agnes W. Schultze.

Instruction will be given this year in parliamentary law by Mr Altmaier, head of the department of commerce and finance.

Mary P. Farr lectured November 3 on library organizing in Maryland, and showed some interesting pictures of small libraries.

In the selection of books course, each student is required to read and discuss in class, five or six books, during the year.

In addition to the books discussed, each student is required to read during the year:

Galsworthy—Strife, or Peabody—The Piper; Harrison—V. V's eyes, or Sidgwick—Herself, or Sidgwick—Promise; Addams—A new conscience and an ancient evil, or Addams—Spirit of youth and the city streets; Barnes—Woman in modern society, or Coolidge—Why women are so, or Schreiner—Woman and labor.

Students who have never read any novel by Dumas, Tolstoi or Turgenev, are required to read one novel by each.

One additional book must be chosen by each student to be read by May 25, 1914. A critical review of this is to be handed in as part of the examination in book selection. Fiction, with the exception of Tolstoi's War and peace, may not be chosen.

A visit was paid on November 12 to the Free library of Philadelphia. The class enjoyed an interesting talk from Dr John Thomson on the history of the library, before visiting its various departments.

Thanksgiving vacation began at noon, November 26, and ended at 9 a. m. December 1.

Alumni notes

Mary P. Farr, Drexel, '95, has finished her work with the Maryland Free library commission for this year and accepted a position to re-catalog the Public library, Manchester, Mass. Miss Farr will return to Maryland in 1914.

Mary B. Snyder, '02, took the senior year in the library school of the New York public library, 1912-13, and has been appointed librarian in charge of the Steinway branch of the Queens Borough public library.

Sara L. Young, '06, has resigned her position as cataloger in the library of the American philosophical society, Philadelphia, to accept the position of assistant in the Wells College library, Aurora, N. Y.

Amy S. Baldwin, '08, has resigned her position as librarian of the Conshohocken (Pa.) public library, to accept the position of librarian in charge of the West End branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Susie E. Black, '11, has resigned her position as librarian of the West End Association, Chester, Pa., to take a position as children's librarian of the Lehigh avenue branch of the Free public library of Philadelphia.

Mildred Subers, '11, has finished her course at the Training school for children's librarians, Pittsburgh, and accepted a position as children's librarian at the Apprentices' library, Philadelphia.

Martha L. Coplin, '13, has accepted a temporary position as cataloger in the library of the Commercial museum, Philadelphia.

Mary Helen Jones, '13, has been appointed librarian of the West End Association library, Chester, Pa.

Marian Pierce, who did most of her work with the class of 1913, and is finishing this year work that temporary trouble with her eyes forced her to drop last year, and who conducted a very successful story hour at the College settlement of Philadelphia last winter, had charge of the domestic work of the chil-

dren at the Settlement fresh air house at Frankford, Pa., last summer, conducted two story hours per day and assisted on the playground.

CORINNE BACON,
Director.

University of Illinois

The Library club, whose membership comprises the library school faculty and students and the members of the University of Illinois library staff, held its opening meeting for the year 1913-14 on Saturday evening, November 8. This first meeting of the year followed the usual custom of taking the form of a reception to those members of the university faculty who had lectured before the library school during the previous year or who have some special official connection with the library. The guests included also the librarians of the two local public libraries, Champaign and Urbana, and all former members of the school not now in library work, who are living in either of the two towns.

The club had hoped to have as the special guest of honor, Dr W. Dawson Johnston, librarian of the Columbia university, who had been in attendance as a delegate from Columbia at the Association of American universities, but Mr Johnston was unable to remain until Saturday night. The school and staff, however, had the privilege of listening to a short address from Dr Johnston on Friday morning. He spoke briefly on the relations between a library school and a university, and on the advantages accruing to both from a juxtaposition.

The following appointments have been made during the past month:

Clara M. Brooks, B. L. S., 1912, librarian of the Hoopeston, Illinois, public library.

Harriet A. Pearson, 1912-13, to a permanent position on the staff of the Lincoln (Nebraska) public library.

Cora Parker, 1912-13, assistant in the Kansas State normal college, Emporia, Kansas.

Vera J. Snook, 1912-13, teacher of English in the Grandview normal school and librarian of the school library, at Grandview, Tennessee.

Helen Wilkinson, 1912-13, in charge of the Hyde Park branch of the Cincinnati public library.

Anna May Price, B. L. S., 1900, is doing some special cataloging at the Platteville (Wisconsin) State normal school.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant director.

New York public library

The enrollment for the year can now be recorded definitely as 74, consisting of 25 seniors, 43 juniors, and 6 part time students. It covers the following States: Alabama, 2; California, 3; Connecticut, 4; Florida, 1; Indiana, 1; Iowa, 4; Massachusetts, 4; Michigan, 6; Minnesota, 1; Missouri, 1; Nebraska, 1; New Jersey, 8; New York, 21; Ohio, 3; Oregon, 2; Pennsylvania, 5; Rhode Island, 2; Virginia, 1; Washington, 1; Wisconsin, 1; other countries: Canada, 1; Finland, 1. The colleges and universities represented are as follows: Adelphi, Barnard, Dartmouth, New Rochelle, Oberlin, Simmons, Smith, Wellesley, and Boston, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, Leland Stanford, Michigan, Nebraska, Oregon, Southern California, Washington, Western Reserve, Wisconsin and Helmsfors.

The libraries represented by actual or former members of the staff are recorded as follows: By the seniors, the public libraries of Cleveland, Detroit, Queensborough and New York, the Jarvie memorial library of Bloomfield, N. J., the White Plains high school, Columbia university, Oberlin college and the Nebraska commission. By the juniors, the public libraries of Brad-dock (Pa.), Detroit, Erie (Pa.), Hartford, New Rochelle (N. Y.), Newark, New York, Pottsville (Pa.), St. Louis, St. Paul.

Since the last report the following lectures have been given.

To the senior classes:

Dr A. S. Root, (Oberlin college library), on The library in the educational scheme, and Bibliographical training in colleges.

Andrew Keogh (Yale University library), six lectures on College library administration.

Freeman F. Burr (Columbia university library), on the Literature of biology, and Literature of chemistry.

Frederick W. Jenkins (New York school of philanthropy), nine lectures on civic questions.

Edwin H. Anderson (Director New York public library), six lectures on Library administration.

I. F. Lockwood (Bursar New York public library), on Library finances.

J. H. Fedeler (Building superintendent New York public library), on Building repairs, lighting, heating and ventilation.

To the juniors:

H. M. Lydenberg (Reference librarian, New York public library), on the Reference department and Special collections of the N. Y. P. L.

Herman Rosenthal (Chief of Slavonic division, N. Y. P. L.), on the Golden Age of Russian literature.

Miss Connolly (Newark public library) on Psychology applied to librarianship.

Claude G. Leland (New York Board of Education) on The public school system of New York.

Dr C. C. Williamson (Chief of Division of economics, N. Y. P. L.), on the Literature of economics and the Literature of sociology.

C. H. A. Bjerregaard (in charge of main reading room, N. Y. P. L.), on the Literature of philosophy.

Benjamin Adams (Chief of circulation department, N. Y. P. L.), on the Circulation department of the N. Y. P. L.

Frederick W. Jenkins (Librarian New York school of philanthropy), on the Library as a civic factor.

H. H. B. Meyer (Chief of division of bibliography, Library of Congress), on Recent undertakings of the division of bibliography.

M. Paul Otlet (Brussels Institute of Bibliography), on The Brussels classification.

The seniors in the advanced reference course are now engaged on problems in the division of economics. These and the students in the school and college library course have selected the following subjects for bibliographies:

Miss Christopher—Autobiographies illustrating periods of English history.

Miss Clafin—History of political parties in the U. S.

Miss Clizbee—Check list of American newspapers up to 1800.

Miss Davis—Domestic service problem.

Miss Grimm—Translations of Italian, Spanish, French and German novelists.

Miss Hazeltine—Pan-Americanism.

Miss Hardy—Male suffrage, 1789-1850.

Miss Hitt—Oil as a fuel.

Miss Hoyt—Public baths.

Miss Jameson—Decorative art, classified by periods.

Miss Pritchard—Library instruction in high schools and normal schools.

Miss Weidinger—Heraldry, general and local.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Principal.

New York state library

The following class officers for the present school year have been elected:

For 1914: President, Florence L. Ingalls, Castleton, N. Y. (Mt. Holyoke); vice-president, P. F. V. Slomann, Copenhagen, Denmark (Univ. of Copenhagen); secretary-treasurer, Amy Cowley, Albany, N. Y. (Northwestern).

For 1915: President, Donald B. Gilchrist, Franklin, N. H. (Dartmouth); vice-president, Gladys B. Allison, Houston, Tex. (Drake); secretary-treasurer, Edna E. Bayer, Rochester, N. Y. (Univ. of Rochester).

Several specialists on the staff of the University of the State of New York will give lectures on their respective specialties in connection with the courses in reference and book selection. The first of these, "Medical books in a public library," was given by Dr O. V. Huffman, secretary of the New York State Board of medical examiners, November 14.

Certain changes in the ceiling of one of the main lecture rooms belonging to the school have been made which remove the objectionable echoes due to the original vaulted construction of the room. This gives the school two large and one small lecture rooms and, in addition, a small reading-room in which current library periodicals and a selected list of newspapers are kept for the use of the students.

Former students and others interested in the school will be interested in knowing that the New York State Education department is now known by the official title of the University of the State of New York (the original name of the corporate body over which the Board of Regents has had jurisdiction since 1784) and that the library school is now ranked as an "Educational division" of the university.

While there is no material change in its status, the references which will in future be made to the "University" instead of to the "State Education department" in the official publications of the school may in default of some explanation make an additional complication in the already complex list of official headings and "corporate author entries" under which these publications are issued.

The following positions have been reported during the month:

Adele Burnham, '12-13, general assistant, Superior (Wis.) public library.

Margaret S. Dick, '12-13, branch assistant, Detroit public library.

Anna R. Phelps, '01, temporary work at the Mt. Kisco and Utica public libraries.

Arthur N. Thomas, '12-13, reading room assistant, Library of Congress.

Harold L. Wheeler, B. L. S. '13, assistant, circulation department, New York public library.

Ruth S. Wilcox, '12-13, temporary branch assistant, New York public library.

Adele Masterson, Summer school, '13, has resigned the librarianship of the Goshen library and Historical society to become children's librarian at the Schermerhorn branch of the Brooklyn public library. F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The Graduates' association reception for the class of 1914 was held on November 5 in the north class-room with an attendance of 84. It had been felt for some years that any sort of formal entertainment was an interruption to rather than a promotion of sociability, so this year the experiment was tried of doing without any program whatever. To judge by sound and appearance the innovation was a great success.

The class of '14 has had its organization meeting, electing Florence L. Crozier of Cleveland, president, and Nathalie Smith of Duluth, secretary and treasurer.

The first visiting lecturer of the sea-

son was Dr Frank P. Hill, who spoke on the organization and work of the Brooklyn public library, on Tuesday, November 11.

Alumni notes

Elizabeth J. Sherwood, '07, has received the appointment of head cataloger at the Iowa State college library, Ames, Iowa.

Agnes F. Greer, '08, formerly librarian of the West End branch of the Pittsburgh public library, assumed the librarianship of the Ballard branch of the Seattle public library in November.

Mildred E. Davis, '10, formerly children's librarian at the Public library of Salem, Ore., has received an appointment in the Children's department of the New York public library.

Laura Stutz, '10, was married to George F. Rogalsky on September 17.

Leila G. Forbes, '11, formerly assistant librarian at Wells college, has been appointed librarian of the Randolph-Macon college library at Lynchburg, Va.

Mary E. Morton, '12, has gone to the Seattle public library as cataloger.

Mabel E. Balston, '13, is to substitute in the Children's museum for three months during the leave of absence of Marion P. Bolles, class of 1911.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

Simmons college

The chief technical work of the first term this year is comprised in the courses in Cutter classification, carried by Miss Sargent; "Reference, bibliography and book selection," by Miss Donnelly, and the composite course, called "Library economy," by Miss Hill. Visits were made to the Riverside press, Farquhar's bindery, and to bookbinding exhibits at the Boston public library and the Boston art museum.

Practice work has been obtained in the State library, through the courtesy of Mr Belden, on the Library of Congress depository catalog.

On November 6, on the invitation of Miss Forest, the class visited the Milton public library.

A variety of opportunities for practice work presents itself, which the school is glad to avail itself of, so far as the schedule of college hours of recitation allows. Students are conducting story hours in the public libraries of Newton and Belmont, are cataloging the Sunday school library of Newtonville, and the High school library in Roxbury, and are working in the Harvard University library of landscape architecture. Two are assisting in the Roxbury Neighborhood House library, and many have charge of home libraries in connection with their course in "philanthropic problems." Most of the seniors and many of the juniors gained practical experience in New England and New York libraries during the last summer vacation.

Notwithstanding their full programs, a number of the students, especially those in Book selection, are finding time to enjoy the course in the Lowell institute lectures by Dr Alfred Noyes, on "The sea in English poetry," as well as other lectures given in that famous institution.

A course in continental literature, given by members of the faculty of the college, broadens the library student's outlook in that direction.

Margaret Campbell, '12-13, has been appointed assistant to the cataloger in the Los Angeles County free library.

Elisabeth D. English, '12-13, has accepted the assistant librarianship in Winthrop college, Rock Hill, S. C.

Elizabeth Haseltine, '12-13, is taking a course in the senior year of the New York Public Library library school, and working in that library.

Mrs Elisabeth Blackall, a special student, '12-13, has entered the new course offered by the University of Wisconsin in legislative reference work.

Elinor Whitney, Simmons, '12, has accepted a position in the Boston art museum library.

Helen Follansbee, a student in the Simmons summer class, '13, has been appointed in the Thomas Crane library, Quincy, Mass.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY.

Western Reserve university

The course in Library administration is a composite one given weekly by Mr Brett, dean of the school, Miss Eastman, or the director. In place of the director's seminar October 15 the class attended the lecture by Edward Howard Griggs on "Self culture and social service through vocation," which was full of helpful and inspiring suggestions regarding one's profession.

The assignments for regular gymnasium work twice each week have been provided for in the students' time schedule. Arrangements have been made with certain university professors for their coöperation in connection with the new course to be given by the director on "The public library and community welfare;" public speaking, parliamentary procedure, conduct of meetings and clubs will be included in this course.

Professor Root of Oberlin college has begun his interesting and informing series of lectures to the school on the "History of the printed book."

During the month the school has welcomed Miss Pringle, a former student, now with the Minnesota library commission, who talked on "Traveling library work;" and Katherine Ellis Barrett, librarian of the Social center library of Cornish, N. H., who spoke in a most entertaining manner of her work in Cornish. Mrs Barrett is known as the author of the "Wide-Awake series" of books for girls.

The class and faculty were entertained October 18 by Mrs H. N. Rickey at her home on Shaker boulevard. Mrs Rickey retains her interest in library affairs ever since, as Miss Virginia Odor, she was head of the reference department of the Cleveland public library. Halloween was celebrated by the students with a most unique and enjoyable party on November 1.

Alumni notes

Eliza E. Townsend, '05, has resigned her position as superintendent of branch work and work with schools in the Spokane public library to become supervising librarian of State institutions of Iowa.

Igerma A. Mears, '11, assistant in the

circulating department of the Cleveland public library, has been promoted to the librarianship of the Pilgrim branch.

Mrs Wilda Strong Peck, '08, has been appointed assistant in library science at Simmons college.

Alice S. Tyler.

Director.

Wisconsin university**Legislative reference and public service course**

Seven students were admitted to the new course in legislative reference and public service training instituted by the Wisconsin library commission, as follows:

Blackall, Mrs E. W. New York City. Geneseo State normal school graduate (4 years' classical course). Simmons college 1 year (including library course). Alliance Francaise, Paris 3 months. Supervisor of training schools.

Cannon, L. H. Milwaukee, Wis. German-English academy (Milwaukee) and private instruction. Extensive accounting and financial experience.

Davis, E. H. Lincoln, Neb. University of Nebraska A. B., assistant, Nebraska legislative reference bureau.

Hochstein, Irma. Milwaukee, Wis. Milwaukee Downer college, 2 years (scholarship). University of Wisconsin A. B.

McMullin, Jennie W. Terre Haute, Ind. Indiana State normal school graduate. University of Chicago (scholarship), A. B. University of Wisconsin A. M.

Schatz, W. P. Chicago, Ill. Milwaukee normal school graduate. University of Wisconsin, Ph.B. Chicago school of civics and philanthropy, graduate. Assistant to Graham Taylor, Director of boys' work, Lincoln Centre, Chicago.

Turner, G. P. Milwaukee, Wis. University of Wisconsin, L. and S. 3 years. Law 1 year.

It has been necessary carefully to restrict the class to those having a previous training and experience, together with natural aptitude and personal qualities, which fit them for this kind of work. The authorities were therefore under the necessity of rejecting the applications of several persons who did not come fully up to the requirements. The nature of the work is indicated by the following:

Library science.—All of these students are at present taking in full the three fundamental courses: Classification, cat-

alogs and reference, including not only the lectures and conferences, but also at first, all of the practice work. Later some of the regular practice work which is not so directly applicable to legislative reference work will be omitted in order to give opportunity for more extended supplementary practice in the legislative reference library. In all these courses the instruction given to the other library school students will be supplemented by special instruction and practice as to legislative and municipal reference material.

University courses.—Each student is also taking at least seven hours per week of advanced work in the University of Wisconsin. The courses taken include legislation, party government, elementary law, constitutional law, labor problems, trusts and monopolies.

Research work.—As was anticipated, several departments of the state government have made application to the commission, asking that students be delegated to do special investigational work for them.

It is to be noted in this connection that this work must be done under conditions which are practical rather than scholastic, since the results are for actual use by the state departments and must conform to certain administrative standards, must be accomplished within a given time, and must be such as to meet the approval of the board asking that the work be done.

Research work will also be done during the year on a special list of 12 subjects of public current interest.

The large number of subjects awaiting investigation provides the practical problems on which the students of this special course may spend their time and gain expert knowledge, both as to method and subject. All of the work is carefully supervised through weekly reports.

Lectures.—The special lectures by leaders in library administration in special library work and in other fields from outside the city and state will be unified and correlated by frequent class conferences with the lecturers and with instructors. The work covers the whole two university semesters and the summer session.

Notes from Foreign Sources Austria-Hungary

The Verein "Zentral-Bibliothek," Vienna, with 23 branches in the city and 3 outside of it, had 545,700 volumes at the end of 1912, and had circulated during the year nearly 5,000,000 volumes.

The *Wiener Volksbildungsverein* has published a list of approved juvenile literature. Copies may be had by sending address and postage to Wien I, Spiegelgasse 19, Austria.

Under the direction of the Hungarian Ministry of education and public worship, a commission of 15 has examined the entire body of juvenile literature of the country, and on the basis of the reports made the Ministry has undertaken a reform of the school libraries.

Denmark

The report of the meeting of Danish librarians at Copenhagen, August 12, 1913, was completed in *Bogsamlingsbladet* for October. The closing session was devoted to children's libraries, in the sense of libraries for children to be placed in the schools and not made a part of other libraries, public or semi-public. Johannes Høirup (Holbaek) spoke on the need of children's libraries in Denmark, where there should be 3,200 such libraries, but there were only 600 to 700. Reasons for this proportion were assigned as indifference on the part of teachers, reluctance among parish councils to appropriate money, and lack of understanding of the true significance of the matter by both teachers and councils. To interest teachers, there should be a model children's library and a model popular library in each seminary with practice work assigned in both, as well as meetings and newspaper articles. Teachers and school inspectors could cooperate to interest the parish councils. The Ministry of public instruction and ecclesiastical affairs had emphasized the

J. P. Klinkby-Pedersen (Randers) spoke about "Children's libraries—Why and how?" "Why?" was answered on the ground of being indispensable, and illustrations were given from the teacher's experience. "How?"

The first answer was the interesting of the children themselves. Then should come a petition to the parish council. If the petition were denied, subscriptions could be sought from individual residents and from local associations, and even from the children. When made public property later, the library would become eligible to state aid. If enrolled in the association, Danmarks Folkebogsamlinger, a discount of 25 per cent on books could be obtained. Discounts from the usual schedules of prices should be secured on the binding of children's books, as they were generally smaller than the books bound for other libraries. Paper covers were advised. Mr Pedersen offered his aid to any teacher who could not get a children's library established in his school, in order to assist him in founding such a library; and promised to duplicate any subscription to it that the teacher personally would make, the offer to be good for one year.

Germany

In a long open letter to Walter Hofmann (recently appointed to head the system of city libraries in Leipzig) which appears in the last issue of the *Zentralblatt für Volksbildungswesen* some 16 German librarians comment on what they consider misleading statements in certain of his published professional articles, and the emphasis is laid on a review of Ladewig's "Politik der Bücherei." The reply occupies 11 pages. At this distance it looks like an effort on the part of the Leipzig librarians to get a more exact and scientific administration for popular libraries in German countries even if some elements in previously existing and essentially commendable methods have to be abandoned.

Librarians in Germany and Austria are actively discussing a topic that has occupied and still occupies the minds of their American co-laborers—the problem of the choice of books for public libraries. Particular stress is being laid on better reading for the young.

The *Rhein-Mainischer Verband für*

Volksbildung reports an arrangement for lending moving picture films to local societies, a traveling theater, 45 traveling libraries, libraries of their own in many of its constituent local Vereine, and an excursion of 50 working people from Frankfurt to visit the "adult schools" of England.

Walter Hofmann has been selected to direct the four new city libraries of Leipzig. The work of the libraries will be conducted by a qualified staff with compensation to individuals according to attainments.

The Heidelberg Volksbibliothek (people's library) had in 1912 a recorded use by 66,687 persons including 29,624 readers in the reading room. This library of 9,462 volumes lent during the year 36,435 books.

Kiel has opened a public reading room, the necessary rooms and the expenses connected with the rooms being furnished by the city.

During the current year the *Zentralblatt für Volksbildungswesen* (Stuttgart) has introduced a supplement, *Mitteilungen des Zentralverbandes der Deutsch-Oesterreichischen Volksbildungsvereine*. This association of organizations for popular education aims at practical results, and is now seeking the establishment of an inspection service for this entire field in Germany and Austria. Traveling exhibits of pictures and of good, cheap books are being sent out to local societies for the mere cost of transportation.

The Bremen Lesehalle (reading room) had 113,480 visitors in 1912, with a total of 29,142 volumes in the library and its branches, a circulation of 188,905 volumes was reached. A lending library was established for the cab-drivers in their own quarters.

The Elberfeld Stadtbücherei (city library) with its branches, in the year 1911-12 attained a circulation of 286,668 volumes. At Christmas time three afternoons were devoted to entertainments for the children.

Italy

The Biblioteca Comunale of Mantua, Italy, at the end of 1912 reports 120,495

volumes besides manuscripts, incunabula and maps. The year's expenditures amounted to 23,811 lire (about \$4,760), of which 923 lire (about \$184) came from the state. Important loans were made to libraries in Italy and two other countries.

The new *Bollettino bibliografico Italiano* is bimonthly, it is published in Verona, and is an alphabetico-classed list with author and subject indexes.

Prof Guido Biagi is president of a society whose object is to provide libraries for the elementary schools of Florence, Italy, the books being allowed to circulate among the families of the scholars. As the result of five years of effort, 135 libraries aggregating some thousands of volumes have been placed in these schools. The society repairs and rebinds the books in these libraries. The purpose is to place a library in every classroom of every school of Florence.

The library of the University of Padua has been installed in a new building costing \$80,000, and it is the first of the Italian university libraries to be housed in a modern structure definitely planned for library uses. The large reading room (100 seats) is supplemented by several special reading rooms. The five-story stack with elevators for books and for people has an estimated capacity of 180,000 volumes, and space is already set aside for two others. Several important gifts marked the re-opening of the library after a closing of three months for the transfer and installation.

Norway

The Deichmanske Bibliotek, Christiania, has published a list of books in belles-lettres added since 1906. It includes the works of American, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese authors, as well as translations into some of these languages. From the cataloger's point of view may be noted,—entry under pseudonym with real name in parentheses, German nouns set in lower case, and book-numbers made up of two-figure Dewey class-numbers and Cutter author-numbers.

L. A.

News from the Field

East

T. Franklin Currier has been appointed assistant librarian of the Harvard college library.

A public library for Waitesville, Vt., the gift of George A. Joslyn, of Omaha, was dedicated October 29. The building cost \$25,000, and has an endowment of \$5,000.

Mrs Howard W. Bracken has given the Bancroft memorial library, Hopdale, Me., \$1,000 to be known as the Sarah M. Whipple fund, the interest to be expended yearly for children's books.

Central Atlantic

Agnes M. Elliott, Pratt, '96, has gone to the public library of Newark, N. J., as chief reference assistant.

Ida M. Mendenhall, Pratt, '04, has gone to the Public library at Utica, N. Y., for the purpose of planning and

A charter given to the New York society library by George III of England in 1772, has been lost for about 70 years. Recently it was brought to the New York public library as a document of interest. It was instantly recognized as the long lost charter of the New York society library, and was restored to its owners.

Mrs Grace Hanford Birdsall, Pratt, '95, has been appointed head of the loan department of the Osterhout free library, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dr Philip M. Uhler, for many years librarian of Peabody institute, Baltimore, died at his home in that city October 23. Dr Uhler was an honorary member of the Johns Hopkins faculty, president of the American academy of science, and a member of a number of literary societies.

The first annual report of the Russell Sage Foundation library, Frederick Warren Jenkins, librarian, states that during the past year the valuable collections on charity and allied subjects, belonging to the New York Charity Organization society, the Association for improving the condition

of the poor, the New York school of philanthropy, the Russell Sage Foundation and the New York State Charities Aid association have been merged into one, to be known as the Russell Sage Foundation library. The new building for the Sage Foundation just completed at Lexington avenue and Twenty-second street, New York City, has made ample provision for the library with 5,000 square feet of floor space and shelving for 50,000 v. It has been entirely reclassified and recataloged in the last year and a half.

Central

Margaret Palmer, Pratt '05, has been made librarian at Chisholm, Minn.

E. S. Willcox has finished a period of 48 years' service with the Public library at Peoria, Ill., 22 years of which he has served as librarian.

Maud Thayer, since 1896 first assistant librarian in the Illinois state library, has resigned her position and will be married shortly to Jephtha Farnum Morrow, of Chicago.

Minnie L. Bushfield, formerly assistant in the Ohio state library, for the past year cataloger in the Public library of Jacksonville, Fla., joined the staff in the library of the State archaeological and historical society, Columbus, O.

Mrs May Hurst Fowler has been appointed librarian of the Illinois state library. Mrs Fowler is a graduate of the Indiana university, spent two years in Indiana state library and one year in Illinois library school.

Eliza E. Townsend, formerly of Iowa, but for some time superintendent of branches of the Public library of Spokane, Wash., has been appointed supervising librarian of the State institution libraries by the Iowa state board of control.

The children's library at the Chicago academy of science is growing in usefulness to the children in the public schools, who come to the nature study classes held in the academy and afterwards look up the various subjects in the library.

Lucile Cully, for three years librarian of the Public library at Kewanee, Ill., has resigned her position. She has been succeeded by Eva Cloud, formerly connected with the Public library of Kewanee, but more recently at the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh and the Public library of Council Bluffs, Ia.

A gift of 20 cash prizes in gold, aggregating \$150, is offered by the Public library commission of Indiana, for the best essays on "Why my community should establish a public library." The offer is made only to the school pupils of 10 counties in Indiana that are without public libraries. The offer is made possible through the generous interest of Mrs E. C. Earl of Connersville, a member of the commission.

The Public library of Newton, Kansas, recently prepared an exhibition of its resources for teachers and schools, and tendered a reception to the School board and the city teachers. A graded list of the library's facilities for storytelling, supplementary reading, and reference was distributed. Mr Willis Kerr, librarian of Emporia State normal school, spoke on the educational work of American libraries.

South

Julia Ideson, for ten years librarian of the Public library at Houston, Texas, has resigned her position to become secretary of the American Art students' club in Paris, France.

A movement for a public library for the city of Richmond, Va., is being fostered by the Richmond educational society. The Business men's club of that city has also taken up the movement.

Pauline Madden, recently with the University of Kansas library, has become librarian of the Public library of Albuquerque, N. M. She succeeds Miss Wetter, who after 12 years' service there has joined the staff of the Cleveland public library.

Carl H. Milam, N. Y. S. L. S., '07-'08, has resigned the secretaryship of the Indiana public library commission which

he has held for four years to become librarian of the Public library of Birmingham, Ala. Pending the appointment of a permanent successor, Miss Carrie E. Scott, N. Y. S. L. S., '05-'06, will serve as acting secretary of the commission.

The annual report of the Public library of Louisville records as the chief event of the year, the transfer of the Polytechnic society's property to the library. This includes a building valued at \$630,000, books, statuary, museum collection and paintings. The revenue from the rent of the building has been of great assistance to the library.

During the year, one branch was opened, another building completed, and plans and contracts entered into for the erection of a second colored branch. The library now consists of main library, seven branches, 213 class room collections in schools, and 37 deposit stations. Total number of books in the library 163,214; borrowers registered, 40,824; books issued, 776,654. Plans to open a civics room in the main library in connection with the newspaper room, have been adopted.

Among the gifts during the year were a statue of George D. Prentice, from the *Louisville Times* and *Courier-Journal* companies, a bronze bust of Madison Cawein, from the Louisville literary society, extensive and complete files of the bound volumes of many of the Louisville newspapers from Bruce Haldeman, president of the *Courier-Journal* Company.

There were 85 lists and circulars issued during the year. The most important were books on child-welfare, gardens and gardening, business, and articles on Oliver Hazard Perry. These were all distributed on special occasions, such as the children's welfare exhibit.

There were 252 meetings held last year in the main library and 505 in the branches. There were four art exhibits in the art room during the year. There were 25,765 visitors in the museum.

Canada

Some time ago the Congregationalists of Georgetown, Ontario, being few in numbers, decided to disband. They had and offered a very pretty stone church

centrally located, to the village for a public library. A subscription of \$2,000 was raised in the village to remodel the building, and now Georgetown has one of the most attractive and comfortable libraries in the province. Space has been found for lecture room, gymnasium and rest room. Dr E. A. Hardy, secretary of the Ontario library association, gave a fine address on library work at the opening ceremony. Much credit is due to H. W. Kennedy, B. A., chairman of the Library board, for the successful establishment of this unique library. Are there not other churches that might profitably be put to such use?

J. R. C. Honeyman of the Regina public library, is taking steps to organize a library association for the Province of Saskatchewan where library matters are in a state of progress and an association could certainly help mould public opinion along right lines. Mr Honeyman has been busy recently in opening two branch libraries in the city, one of which will cater especially to foreigners, of whom there is a large population. During the first month these branches have been open, 611 borrowers have been enrolled.

Foreign

The tenth annual report of the Public library of Yamaguchi, Japan, records that there are 88 libraries in the prefecture, to most of which are sent traveling libraries from the main building. Traveling libraries were also sent to young men's associations, secondary schools, and other local centers.

The library was open 332 days, with a circulation of 236,682 v. There were 293 sets of traveling libraries, aggregating 17,504 v., sent to 102 different communities, from which the circulation was 46,818.

Cataloger Wanted

A library in one of the Middle-west states wishes to secure the services of an expert librarian for at least six months. Salary, \$100 a month. Address, with list of references, Miss N. A. Sloan, 6 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

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